

The 70th National FFA Convention

# PROceedings

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**NATIONAL FFA**   **ONLINE**

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 NOVEMBER 12-15, 1997  
70th  
KANSAS CITY, MO

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The 70th National FFA Convention

VOLUME LXX

# PROceedings

The 70th National FFA Convention Proceedings is published by the National FFA Organization as a record of its annual convention held in Kansas City, Missouri, November 12–15, 1997.

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## Letter from the Editor,

*Seventy years ago*, FFA started building its foundation in Kansas City. That legacy of leadership has positively affected the lives of millions of young people who have passed through FFA's ranks.

*The 1997 National FFA Convention* added even more to FFA's charge of building the future. A record attendance of 44,021 filled every available space in Municipal Auditorium and surged through the National Agricultural Career Show. The inspiration and excitement was palpable as the sea of blue and gold swelled into ovations and cheers during convention sessions.

*The proceedings staff* was just as thrilled to record those moments for you. In the following 76 pages) you will see the combination of dedication, talent, energy and enthusiasm that brings alive the spirit of convention. New technology made our jobs a little more efficient this year, but you're the element that always makes it worthwhile.

*One person who held a deep belief* in the worth and talents of FFA members was Roni Horan, of the National FFA Communications Resources Team. Her career at FFA spanned 45 years, and she was the epitome of dedication and service to young people. She passed from us last June, but her spirit will always be with us. To her we dedicate the 70th edition of the Proceedings.

*We hope that the following pages* give you a taste of what happened in and around the national convention this year, and gives you the inspiration to build your future in the FFA and beyond. See you next year!

*Best wishes,*  
Lynn Hamilton, Editor

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## Building the Future



*Friends form a basis of support for each other. The experiences of the national FFA convention bond strangers together in enduring ways.*

Building a solid structure requires, among other things, a building plan, a strong foundation, the right tools for the right job, and cooperation between all of the parties involved in the construction. People are also key to the success, from the architect to the contractor and everyone in between.

Just as a builder constructs one floor at a time around a foundation, FFA members build their futures in stages, always a work in progress. Even before the first chapter meeting, members have already considered what they hope to gain from the experience, and how to use it to achieve

their personal goals. With this plan as a basis, they set out to build their dreams by moving from one level to the next, Greenhand to Chapter FFA Degree and so on.

FFA members who came to Kansas City this year were put to a challenge: develop the leadership skills and confidence to create a future that meets the needs of the organization and the world, and move with direction and purpose into the next millennium. In the few days that marked the culmination of the year, FFA members proved they had what it takes to build the future.



## The Best Laíd Plans

Strategy was the name of the game for visitors to the 70th National FFA Convention. With nine convention sessions, three dances, 338 exhibitors at the FFA National Agricultural Career Show, 32 educational tours, 21 workshops and five keynote speakers all on offer — and only four days to take it all in — it was a challenge to find enough hours in the day to see everything. Many were not surprised to find themselves happily sleep-deprived.

But for those who were in KC participating in career development events, strategy took on a whole new meaning. The best teams and individuals from across the country came to compete for top honors in dozens of events, and practice, timing and planning were essential to developing a winning style.

For other convention visitors, keynote speakers and award winners offered words of encouragement that inspired listeners to draft plans for action.



The future is a happy prospect for these two delegates from Hawaii, Helena Al-Ikubaisi and Filamer Ganir. Their smiles are as welcoming to members as their state's sign.



# NATIONAL

# FFA



## The 70th National FFA Convention



**NATIONAL**  
**FFA**  
**The 70th National FFA Convention**



Dazzling laser light shows capped off convention sessions, accompanied by slides, music and smoke to present a show for eyes and ears. More than 44,000 people watched the convention's events unfold from the main arena, or on closed-circuit television in Bartle. Seating in the arena was rearranged to accommodate more attendees, and the Reflections program and opening session were held twice to allow everyone to take part.

The stage might be in this members' future, who entertained the audience with a melody in Spanish during a National FFA Talent Revue performance. Many aspiring singers, musicians and dancers showed their forte in front of an audience of thousands.

## *A Foundation for Excellence*

A broad base of corporate, community and alumni support is the bedrock of the FFA. Convention-goers cheered their thanks to hundreds of sponsoring organizations and companies that contributed a record sum of \$7.1 million to the National FFA Foundation. Other former members, along with business and community leaders, were honored for outstanding achievement and contributions to the organization.

Members hoped to cash in on experience, education and service. Stars Over America finalists spent years laying the groundwork for their SAE projects, and it paid off for South Dakota's Mike McIntyre and Ohio's Mark Dudgeon, this year's Stars. Six dedicated members from a field of 39 were selected for the ultimate service role, national officer. Other convention attendees made contacts and built networks for getting that dream job.





## Tools of the Trade

Some tools put a new spin on the perception of "typical" FFA members. The glimmering shine of polished brass shed light on members' proficiency in the performing arts as musicians in the National FFA Band to commemorate 50 years of entertaining FFA audiences.



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The 70th National FFA Convention



*People came from far and wide to experience the convention. Suitcases loaded with official dress and heavy coats were seen being unloaded from taxicabs, buses and vans all over Kansas City.*



*Focus and observation are important elements of a winning judging style, as demonstrated by this floriculture contestant. Convention-goers were urged to focus on their goals and look for opportunities in every situation.*



## Teamwork

Participants in this year's convention found strength in numbers. Over 44,000 members, supporters and guests made the annual midwestern pilgrimage to support and celebrate the accomplishments of outstanding members. The best aspects of teamwork were on display throughout the convention.

Judging teams tested the limits of their combined knowledge and reaped the mutual fruits of victory. Officer teams explored the importance of commitment to each other to ensure success of the chapters' goals. In committee

meetings, delegates engaged in open discussion about the future direction of the FFA and its programs. Even the band and chorus performed together in concert.

For those who were making their first trip to Kansas City, the stream of blue corduroy flowing through downtown streets made the world seem a little smaller, and many fast friendships were formed. Entire chapters came to the convention by bus, train, plane and automobile, allowing everyone to share in the experience and creating collective memories for the attendees.









A scream of excitement goes out when Eric E. Kracke's name is called as the 1997 Diversified Crop Production Entrepreneurship proficiency award winner. Kracke is a member of the Wilber-Clateria FFA Chapter of Nebraska.

## DAIRY PRODUCTION, ENTREPRENEUR

Sponsored by ABS Global, Inc.; Alfa Laval Agri Inc.; and Manna Pro Corporation, "The Calf Manna® Company."

CALIFORNIA: Traci Ferreira, Hanford

MINNESOTA: Jason J. Schroeder, New Ulm

NORTH CAROLINA: Matthew L. Stegall, Piedmont

UTAH: Spencer Liston, Payson

## DAIRY PRODUCTION, PLACEMENT

Sponsored by Protiva, a Unit of Monsanto Company

CALIFORNIA: Daniel Martin, Tulare Western

ILLINOIS: Matthew R. McClaren, Carlyle

UTAH: David Thomas, Payson

WISCONSIN: Christopher J. McCann, Reedsburg

## DIVERSIFIED CROP, ENTREPRENEUR

Sponsored by Cargill

CALIFORNIA: Ryan M. Sweeney, Kingsburg

MINNESOTA: Bradley D. Baumgardt, Sleepy Eye

NEBRASKA: Eric E. Kracke, Wilber-Clateria

TENNESSEE: Jon M. Moore, Halls

## DIVERSIFIED CROP PRODUCTION, PLACEMENT

Sponsored by National Crop Insurance Services; AgrEvo; and United Agri Products

CALIFORNIA: Matthew Limas, Tulare Union

INDIANA: Ryan J. Allbaugh, Carroll

OKLAHOMA: Jody Jackson, Thomas

WISCONSIN: Scott Holland, Pardeeville

## DIVERSIFIED LIVESTOCK, ENTREPRENEUR

Sponsored by Animal Nutrition Division/Continental Grain Company

COLORADO: George S. Reid II, Crowley County

IOWA: Andy Muff, Ventura Lakeside

LOUISIANA: Mandy Walker, Hathaway

MISSOURI: Court Aeschliman, Schuyler

## DIVERSIFIED LIVE-STOCK, PLACEMENT

Sponsored by Continental Grain Company, Cattle Feeding & Pork Divisions; Allflex USA, Inc.; and United Soybean Board

CALIFORNIA: Tyler Storey, Santa Ynez

IOWA: Benjamin F. Yetter, Earlham

OHIO: Nick Derr, Upper Sandusky

UTAH: Dusty Bingham, Box Elder

## EQUINE SCIENCE

Sponsored by Purina Mills, Inc.; American Paint Horse Association; and Red Brand Non-Climb Horse Fence/Made by Keystone Steel & Wire Company

INDIANA: Kimberly L. Yocum, Whiteland

IOWA: Rebecca R. Miller, Valley

KANSAS: Wade A. Reh, Inman

WISCONSIN: Amanda Riley, Waupaca



National Environmental Science Proficiency Award winner LaRena Smith happily accepts her award while her Thomas, Okla., FFA Advisor Dale Glazier looks on.

## EMERGING AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY

Sponsored by Caterpillar Inc.

CALIFORNIA: Katie Godfrey, La Sierra

ILLINOIS: Jamie Herring, Rochelle

MINNESOTA: Stacy K. Stoltenberg, Pipestone/Jasper

WISCONSIN: Tracy R. Anderson, Sun Prairie

## ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Sponsored by IMC Global Inc. and Carolina Biological Supply Company

INDIANA: James Wolhuter, Prairie Heights

IOWA: Scott Johnson, G & G

OHIO: Ross Stoller, Wayne Trace

OKLAHOMA: LaRena Smith, Thomas

## FEED GRAIN PRODUCTION, ENTREPRENEUR

Sponsored by Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.

KANSAS: Justin Newland, Neodesha

KENTUCKY: Justin Tabor, Scottsville

NORTH DAKOTA: Eric Mairs, Lisbon

WISCONSIN: Douglas L. Jung, Randolph

## FEED GRAIN PRODUCTION, PLACEMENT

Sponsored by Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.

ILLINOIS: James Mead, Amboy

NEBRASKA: Rob A. Chatt, Tekamah-Herman

OHIO: Mark A. Schiff, Teays Valley

WISCONSIN: Zeb Zuehls, Montello



## FIBER CROP PRODUCTION

*Sponsored by the National FFA Foundation General Fund*

**CALIFORNIA: Chad**

**Crivelli, Dos Palos**

**GEORGIA: Jarrell Sapp,**  
Colquitt County

**TENNESSEE: Matt Ross,**  
Dyer County

**WISCONSIN: Brian J. Eckes,**  
Marshfield

## FLORICULTURE

*Sponsored by American Floral Endowment, The Kroger Company, and Valent U.S.A. Corp.*

**CALIFORNIA: Alyssia M.**

Maze, Tulare Union

**IOWA: Andrew R. Tygrett,**  
Wilton

**OHIO: Carrie Prince,**  
Cardington

**OKLAHOMA: Rosslyn C.**  
Spencer, Chickasha

## FOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

*Sponsored by General Mills Foundation; Mariani Packing Co., Inc.; and the National FFA Foundation General Fund*

**NEBRASKA: Travis M.**

**Walker, Norfolk**

**NORTH DAKOTA: Matthew**

P. Knorr, Velva

**OHIO: Christopher Knight,**  
Wayne County

**WASHINGTON: Luanne**  
Garside, Wenatchee

## FORAGE PRODUCTION

*Sponsored by Gehl Company and Novartis Seeds, Inc.*

**NORTH CAROLINA: Aaron**

J. Stegall, Piedmont

**OKLAHOMA: Bob**  
Birkenbale, Morrison

**TENNESSEE: Bradley**  
Carroll, Powell Valley

**UTAH: Alan Rail, Wasatch**

## FOREST MANAGEMENT

*Sponsored by Chrysler Corporation Fund - Dodge Trucks; John Deere Consumer Products; and Stone Container Corporation*

**ALABAMA: Randy J.**

Newman, Randolph-  
Roanoke

**IOWA: Alex Smith, Red Oak**

**TEXAS: Michael Taylor,**  
Nacogdoches

**WISCONSIN: Erik R.**  
Kurth, Pulaski

## FRUIT AND/OR VEGETABLE PRODUCTION

*Sponsored by Briggs & Stratton Corporation Foundation, Inc.*

**CALIFORNIA: Eric**

Harcksen, Atwater

**IDAHO: Ty M. Beck, Burley**

**ILLINOIS: Adam C. Viall,**  
Manteno

**UTAH: Jerry L. Fowers,**  
Payson

## HOME AND/OR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

*Sponsored by DeWALT High Performance Industrial Tools*

**INDIANA: Gunther W.**  
Kreps, Wawasee

**LOUISIANA: Jason L.**  
Fontenot, Lacassine

**MONTANA: Jeff Morgan,**  
Shields Valley

**WISCONSIN: Janel T.**  
Pagenkopf, Bloomer

## LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

*Sponsored by Reiman Publications*

**MINNESOTA: Philip**

C. Skoglund, Tracy  
**NORTH CAROLINA:**

Jimmy Brown,  
Madison

**OHIO: Jerrod Hansel,**  
Live Oaks

**TEXAS: Tyson Hall-**  
mark, Snyder

## NURSERY OPERATIONS

*Sponsored by Chrysler Corporation Fund - Dodge Trucks and Merial*

**FLORIDA: Chad A.**  
Branford, North

Marion

**INDIANA: Joseph**  
Fortman, Woodlan

**IOWA: Kelsey Stansberry,**  
Linn-Mar

**KENTUCKY: Chris Elliott,**  
Jessamine County

## OIL CROP PRODUCTION, ENTREPRENEUR

*Sponsored by Chicago Board of Trade and Novartis Seeds, Inc.*

**ILLINOIS: Josh Merdian,**  
Midland

**IOWA: Jason D. Sanders,**  
Vinton

**NEBRASKA: Cindy**

Stockamp, Scribner-Snyder  
**TENNESSEE: Matthew**  
Stark, East Robertson

## OIL CROP PRODUCTION, PLACEMENT

*Sponsored by United Soybean Board, Asgrow Seed Company, and AgrEvo*

**KENTUCKY: Charlie**  
Hayden, Apollo

**MINNESOTA: Jeremy S.**

Ibberson, Sleepy Eye

**SOUTH DAKOTA: Mike**  
Schock, McCook Central

**WISCONSIN: James R.**  
Evans, Randolph



Forty-one FFA members were honored Friday for achievement in supervised agricultural experience programs. Ty Beck jumps for joy as he wins the National Fruit and/or Vegetable Production Proficiency Award.

## OUTDOOR RECREATION

*Sponsored by CHEVY TRUCKS; O.F. Mossberg and Sons, Inc.; and Schrade Cutlery*

**ILLINOIS: Rebecca I.**  
Grimm, Alexis

**MINNESOTA: Wendy A.**  
Jasper, LeRoy-Ostrander

**NEVADA: Kimberly Newton,**  
Smith Valley

**WISCONSIN: Keith A.**  
Caulfield, Montello



A stunned Mark Schiff from Teays Valley, Ohio, is congratulated by a fellow finalist for the National Feed Grain Production Placement Proficiency Award.



## POULTRY PRODUCTION

Sponsored by Chore-Time Equipment Division of CTB Incorporated; Schering-Plough Animal Health; United Soybean Board; and Degussa

CALIFORNIA: Calvin Kelch, Golden West

MINNESOTA: **Brian V. Joyer, Forest Lake**

NORTH CAROLINA: Chris Crot, Sun Valley

WISCONSIN: Christine M. Bertram, New Holstein

## SHEEP PRODUCTION

Sponsored by Wrangler Division of V. F. Corporation; Resistol Hats; and the National FFA Foundation General Fund

CALIFORNIA: Jason W. Evanson, Santa Maria

IOWA: **Amy R. Mounce, Alburnett**

LOUISIANA: Lana Myers, Hathaway

OHIO: Beth Aday, Blanchester

## SMALL ANIMAL CARE

Sponsored by Novartis Animal Health U.S., Inc.

CALIFORNIA: Justin Van Deusen, Elk Grove

KENTUCKY: Sarah Casey, Jessamine County

INDIANA: **Michelle L. Hershberger, Wawasee**

OKLAHOMA: Kelly Christensen, Thomas

## SOIL AND WATER MANAGEMENT

Sponsored by American Cyanamid Company, Agricultural Products Division

ILLINOIS: Annette M. Miller, Nokomis

NEBRASKA: Matthew Mottl, Fullerton

NORTH CAROLINA: **Eric L. Deal, South Rowan**

SOUTH DAKOTA: Kari Horsley, Wessington Springs

## SPECIALTY ANIMAL PRODUCTION

Sponsored by Purina Mills, Inc.; American Dairy Goat Association; and Country General

CALIFORNIA: Laura A. Baker, Sanger

LOUISIANA: Candice D. Alexander, Hathaway

PENNSYLVANIA: Carleen M. Vorisek, Linesville

WISCONSIN: **Brian E. Burma, Black Hawk-South Wayne**

## SPECIALTY CROP PRODUCTION

Sponsored by Elf Atochem North America, Inc.; Kubota Tractor Corporation; No-Churs Plant Food Company; and Wilbur-Ellis Company

CALIFORNIA: Peter Hansen, Camarillo

FLORIDA: Santa Anna M. Deas IV, Hamilton County

IDAHO: CeLes Beck, Burley

OKLAHOMA: **Roy Branch, Chickasha**

## SWINE PRODUCTION, ENTREPRENEUR

Sponsored by Pfizer Animal Health Division and Purina Mills, Inc.

IDAHO: Trevor Bott, Minico

IOWA: **Luke R. Brown, Hawkeye**

OKLAHOMA: Brad J. Atkinson, Cheyenne

WISCONSIN: Adam J. Hahn, Randolph

## SWINE PRODUCTION, PLACEMENT

Sponsored by Pfizer Animal Health and Carl S. Akey, Inc.

INDIANA: Jeremy Meek, Carroll

IOWA: **Brian Pitzen, St. Ansgar**

MINNESOTA: Heather King, Stewartville

SOUTH DAKOTA: Brock Streff, McCook Central

## TURF GRASS MANAGEMENT

Sponsored by The Scotts Company

CALIFORNIA: Summer S. Kostik, Morro Bay

IOWA: Kevin Jones, Montezuma

MINNESOTA: Shawn P. Linder, Battle Lake

WISCONSIN: **Troy D. Ambrose, Amherst**

## WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

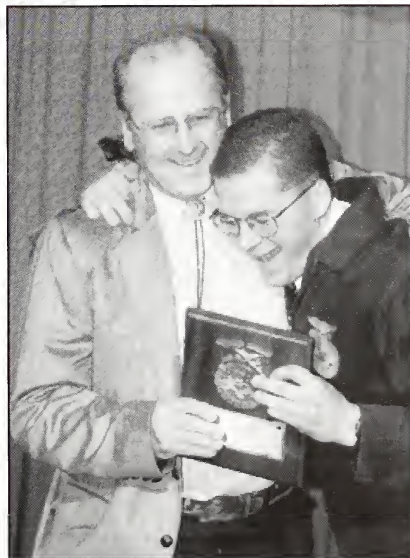
Sponsored by Bass Pro Shops, Inc. and Buck Knives

ILLINOIS: Josh Mussatto, Seneca

INDIANA: **Larry D. Kees, Woodlan**

OHIO: Travis Kelly, West Muskingum

WISCONSIN: Tim E. James, Darlington



An ecstatic Gunther Kreps of the Wawasee, Ind., FFA Chapter shares his proficiency award for Home and/or Community Development with his advisor.









# Agriscience Teacher of the Year

Sponsored by Ford Motor Company Fund and PCS Sales



Two outstanding teachers shared the stage Friday evening as they were both announced as National Agriscience Teachers of the Year. Ray Chelewski of the Presque Isle, Maine, Regional Technology Center, and Richard Norris of Maries Co. R-II Schools in Belle, Mo., each received a \$1,500 cash award and a plaque recognizing their skills making science and agriculture come alive for students.

Ray Chelewski has surrounded his students with scientific technologies and opportunities. By using the department's high-tech laboratory facilities students can produce plants, tropical fish, trout, hydroponic tomatoes and fruit and vegetable crops. Using these facilities allows them to learn a great deal more about the scientific aspects of agriculture.

Chelewski also encourages his students to use the Internet and other technologies to access information in a global environment. The department recently worked with a local subsidiary of Monsanto on a project involving genetically improved potatoes, which received acknowledgement from the parent company.

Enrollment in the school's agriculture program, in which subjects mirror those taught in science classes, has increased to 165 students from the 28 enrolled when it began in 1990. Chelewski credits the reality-based nature of the agriscience lessons with fostering students' interest in both science and agriculture. "We make science accessible and enjoyable for all, which makes them appreciate agricultural science," he said.

Richard Norris applied for a \$105,000 grant that he has used to teach biotechnology concepts to agriculture and science students. The grant provided state-of-the-art equipment to teach these concepts. The lab and additional greenhouse allow students to experiment with such breakthrough concepts as hydroponics and bovine embryo transfer in a classroom setting.

Norris also taught an experimental research and writing course that took students through all phases of a year-long research program, including statistical analysis of their data. In addition, the department established a collection of research materials to assist students.

"Students in our program appear to have a greater understanding and appreciation of the scientific side of agriculture, instead of simply dismissing current technologies as something that they would never employ on their farm," Norris wrote in his application. "Students who once had little interest in school are now motivated by what they have seen in our biotech lab."

Gehrig T. Johnson, superintendent of Maine School Administrative District #1 in Presque Isle, Maine, and Ted Spessard, superintendent of schools in Belle, Mo., were also recognized for supporting agriscience education.



Ray Chelewski of the Presque Isle, Maine, Regional Technology Center shared National Agriscience Teacher of the Year honors with Richard Norris of Maries Co. R-II Schools in Belle, Mo. Each winner received a \$1,500 cash award in addition to a recognition plaque.

## NATIONAL WINNERS

Ray E. Chelewski, Presque Isle, Maine  
Richard J. Norris, Belle, Mo.

### National Finalists:

MINNESOTA: Michael A. Mastey, Bold  
IOWA: David G. Briggs, Horn O' Plenty







# Agri-Entrepreneurship Awards

Sponsored by and in partnership with the Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership Inc. at the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation

The 10 national finalists in the Agri-Entrepreneurship Education Program aren't looking for jobs - they've created their own. These creative, motivated young people each received a plaque and \$1,000 during Friday afternoon's convention session. Their chapters also benefited from their innovative spirit, as each finalists' chapter received \$500 for promoting entrepreneurship. The program is a joint activity of the National Council for Agricultural Education, the National Vocational Agricultural Teachers' Association, the National FFA Alumni Association, the U.S. Department of Education and the National FFA Organization.

## NATIONAL FINALISTS

**Matt Barnes** of Selmer, Tenn., started a specialty crop production business to enhance his cattle and sheep enterprises. After researching the market potential of several vegetable crops, he decided to produce okra, pumpkins and gourds. He will harvest his first crop this year.

**Amy Bauman** of Oroville, Calif., started a small agricultural communica-

tions firm to serve youth-related organizations. Amy Bauman Communications focuses on educational and motivational presentations and workshops; and creates radio and television commercials; print ads and apparel.

**Chris Clelland** of Caldwell, Idaho, started C&M Custom Hay three years ago. C&M custom cuts, bales and stacks hay and

straw. He also acts as a broker by locating, buying and selling hay for farmers and ranchers in southwestern Idaho.

**Brandon Figg** of Glendale, Ariz., started a landscaping business in the fall of 1992. He now specializes in the construction of "hardscapes" which involve concrete and masonry construction along with tile work. Figg serves homeowners in the Phoenix metropolitan area and targets new construction.

**Melisa Griffith** of Basin, Wyo., started Hoof-N-Wood Kennels in June 1996. She decided to open a kennel when her family had to travel 60 miles to board their dog. Melisa provides dog boarding, obedience training, grooming and in-home pet care to a wide variety of customers.

**Jason Morehouse** of New Paris, Ind., started a custom detasseling service in 1997 when an area seed corn company decided to transfer detasseling responsibility to its grower producers. Morehouse researched the viability of providing this service and leased the necessary equipment to launch his business.

**Shequilla Pruitt** of Detroit, Mich., started Designs by Shequilla, a floral shop specializing in weddings, parties, sympathy and

everyday arrangements. Her initial clientele came from referrals from her high school floriculture program and she has built a small customer base from referrals over the past year.

**Brittany Rogers** of Springville, Ariz., rescues retired racing horses with her business, working to rehabilitate horses that would otherwise be euthanized. She purchases her animals off the track and sells them for use in rodeo events, hunter-jumper events and also for pleasure animals.

**Justen Selman** of Tremonton, Utah, launched Circle S Fabrication in June 1995. He designs, fabricates and markets sheep and cattle trim stands, dutch oven equipment and skeet seats, and builds trailers and racks to custom specifications.

**Carmen Webb** of Carrollton, Mo., began Carmen's Cluck & Pluck Kitchen in the spring of 1993. She sells ready-to-cook poultry products, home-grown and processed salsa, processed venison products and fresh jams and jellies. To assure quality, she raises her own chickens, turkeys, garden products and fruit.

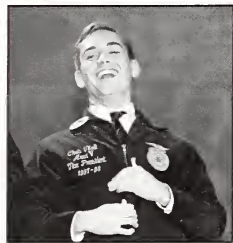


Brittany Rogers of Springville, Ariz., rehabilitates injured race horses, selling them for use in rodeos, hunter-jumper events and for pleasure as well as returning them to the track. The Round Valley FFA member was honored for her enterprise at this year's Agri-Entrepreneurship Awards.





# National Extemporaneous Public Speaking



*Sponsored by American Farm Bureau Federation*



Extemporaneous public speakers are not only faced with the challenge of giving top-notch presentations, they have to do it with only 30 minutes of preparation. The national winner received a \$300 award, second place earned \$275, third place \$250 and fourth place \$225.

## National Winner

Chris Vitelli  
Plant City FFA Chapter  
Plant City, Fla.

## Second Place

Paul Lewis  
Groton FFA Chapter  
Groton, S.D.

## Third Place

Josh Tewart  
Meridian FFA Chapter  
Meridian, Idaho

## Fourth Place

Katy Poth  
Liberty Union FFA Chapter  
Pickerington, Ohio

## Solving the Problem of Bacteria Contamination in Food

Chris Vitelli, Plant City, Fla.,  
FFA Chapter

Many of you may be familiar with the late successful retailer Mr. Sam Walton of WalMart fame. But in the late 1950s Mr. Walton was a struggling businessman about to open his second five n' dime store in country town of Arkansas. Mr. Walton needed to attract lots of people for his grand opening, so he decided to give away watermelons and free donkey rides out front for the kids. As it started getting hot and humid they swung the front doors of the store open wide. Much to their surprise it began to pour down rain. Once the lightning began the donkeys got spooked and began running around outside the front of the store. During the process, the donkeys stepped on the watermelons, crushing them into mush. The mush eventually mixed with the watermelons and the donkey manure, creating an incredible mess. As the heavy rain continued, this conglomeration spilled through the front doors onto the floor. Needless to say, it wasn't a pleasant sight for Mr. Walton and his second grand opening.

But do you know this scenario certainly wouldn't have pleased the food safety sector or the agricultural industry even in the late 1950s. Today we will focus on food safety concerns and how we can combat the problem with contamination of our

foods. We will start by identifying the food safety issues of today. Secondly, we will focus on technological advancements which play a key role in combating the problem of food safety. And last but not least, we will focus on the government's role of food safety in this country. But we'll start with my first point of analysis, the food safety issues.

Infectious disease and outbreak investigations bring both excitement and frustration. It's exciting to know that the USDA is cracking down on those who violate the meat and poultry laws. But in retrospect, it's also very frustrating to hear about food safety problems every day. Recently, American consumers witnessed what the USDA calls the largest recall in beef history.

A local newspaper in my hometown, *The Parade*, reported that Hudson Foods of Columbus, Neb., recalled 25 million pounds of beef. The beef was recalled because of 17 cases of *E. coli* O157:H7 were detected in hamburger patties in Colorado, and were traced back to Hudson Foods, Inc. This case, followed by a recent case with Beef America Plant which recalled 170,000 pounds of contaminated beef, has American consumers very apprehensive of the future of food safety in this country. We the American consumers can control contaminants within our homes by keeping a clean cooking environment and cooking our food at correct internal temperatures. We must continually rely on the government and the agricultural industry to explore technological

advancements for the future of food safety. As you will see in my second point of analysis, technology plays a key role in combating the food safety problem with food contamination.

On September 1, 1997, *Newsweek* magazine reported that food irradiation is one approach to eliminating disease-causing bacteria. In relative terms, food irradiation involves exposing food to certain amounts of ionizing radiation to control contaminants such as *E. coli*, salmonella or Hepatitis A. It's important to realize that irradiated food is not radioactive. And according to the FDA, it does not constitute a health risk. By law all the irradiated food must be labeled as such. Some consumers may be very apprehensive of the future of this technological advancement. But in retrospect, it took 50 years for the pasteurization of milk to gain acceptance.

You see, technology plays a key role in solving some of the food safety problems. But until the American consumers can identify and accept technological advancements such as food irradiation, we must allow the government to intervene and make strict regulations. As you will see in my third point of analysis, the government plays a key role in the future of food safety problems as well.

A recent *Newsweek* poll stated that 51 percent of Americans are taking greater precautions with home-cooked food. An additional poll stated that 62 percent of

Americans want the government to take strict regulations on the future of food safety problems. The government must comply, and meet the food safety problem in our American society. One way of reaching this goal is outlined in the *Washington Newswire* on August 19, 1997, which states that the government will implement the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point system (HACCP). HACCP identifies key control points in food processing plants to eliminate contaminants. In addition, as of right now the USDA has no authority to mandate the recalls or stop the distribution of those who violate the meat and poultry laws. However, on August 29, 1997, a USDA publication stated that U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman proposed his law entitled the Food Safety Enforcement Enhancement Act of 1997, which would give him the authority to take government action on those who violate these laws. The government plays a key role in the future of our food safety.

In conclusion, Sam Walton learned a great lesson. He learned that food safety is essential to anyone's future in the industry of agriculture. And the agricultural industry is learning that food safety is very important for the future of our industry. The American consumers must continually become educated about technological advancements. At the same time, we have to rely on the government for the future of our food safety concerns.







# National Prepared Public Speaking

*Sponsored by FMC Corporation, Agricultural Products Group*

Every year, hundreds of FFA members throughout the United States begin writing and rehearsing six- to eight-minute speeches, many in hopes of presenting those speeches on the national convention stage.

Just four advance all the way through multiple levels of competition—chapter, district, state and regional—to become national prepared public speaking finalists. Those four FFA members give their presentations before thousands of onlookers at the national convention.

Though the finalists are polished public speakers, winning the national title requires more than just flair and finesse. It also requires a strong grasp of an important agricultural issue.

Each public speaking participant prepares a speech on an agriculture-related subject of his or her choice. After presenting it, they answer five minutes of judges' questions about the topic.

Kevin Jaquet, of the Galva FFA Chapter in Galva, Ill., emerged as this year's national prepared public speaking winner, earning a \$300 prize for his efforts. The second, third and fourth place winners, listed below, received \$275, \$250 and \$225, respectively. All four finalists also receive a \$1,000 scholarship from FMC Corporation, Agricultural Products Group.

Below is the text of Jaquet's winning oratory.

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## We Must Protect Our Earth Today For a Brighter Tomorrow

*Kevin Jaquet, Galva FFA Chapter, Galva, Ill.*

Stop for a moment and think about what the earth will be like in the next millennium. Picture it now. The place: Anytown, United States of America; the date: Nov. 12, 2097. Look around for a minute. Look—over there—a closed landfill where the football field used to be. Oh, and over there—that's the hydroponics lab that the city uses to grow its food since there are too many pollutants in the soil. And what about right here, where the school used to be—it's the water-treatment dome that the city uses to filter ground-water into usable water for citizens.

Now, let's paint a different picture. We're back here in Kansas City, but the date is today, November 12, 1997. If we continue on the current track that we are on, that is what our

future will hold for us. However, there is a way that we can divert off of this crash course with Mother Nature: by being conscious of the world around us and taking action to protect our earth, we can make the earth the beautiful planet it once was and that we want it to be.

As a nation, we must do more to preserve the quality of the earth. One thing that we can do is to recycle. Almost all products being used by consumers today can be recycled. There are over 1,000 companies involved with recycling nationwide who can recycle everything from your morning newspaper to your dinner napkin. McDonald's, the largest fast food chain in the nation, has switched from Styrofoam containers to recycled

cardboard containers to help in creating a market for recyclables and to reduce non-biodegradable waste. Many advantages can be found in recycling. Did you know that every time you recycle one aluminum can, you save enough energy to run a television set for one hour? Or did you know that the aluminum that was recycled last year saved enough energy to power a city the size of Boston for the entire year?

More than 450 million tons of waste are produced annually in the United States. Only one-third of this amount is recycled, even though 400 million tons are recyclable. Landfills are filling up quickly. Compare landfills and recycling to cars. If all of the waste that is recycled is a little compact Geo Metro, then the

## National Winner

*Kevin Jaquet  
Galva FFA Chapter  
Galva, Ill.*

## Second Place

*Becky Avant  
Putnam County FFA Chapter  
Eatonton, Ga.*

## Third Place

*Brandy Rapp  
Greenbrier East FFA Chapter  
Renick, W.V.*

## Fourth Place

*Cole David Young  
Katy FFA Chapter  
Katy, Texas*

waste that could be recycled is a stretch limousine.

The most effective way of recycling municipal wastes is to separate materials before they become part of the waste stream. In an attempt to slow the rapid filling of landfills, increasing numbers of towns have instituted curbside recycling programs that require residents to separate glass, metal, plastic and paper from their garbage. Although these programs are good for residents of towns, farmers and people who live outside of city limits may not have the luxury of curbside pick-up. Drop-off sites solve this problem. Any resident, whether they live in town or in the country, is able to take their pre-sorted materials to the drop-off site.





*Kevin Jaquet makes an emphatic point about protecting the environment as he gestures to the audience during the prepared public speaking finals in Municipal Auditorium. Jaquet's thought-provoking speech was convincing enough to win the event.*

Did you know that every time that one ton of paper is recycled, 17 tall trees, 7,000 gallons of water, and three cubic yards of landfill space are saved? Recycled paper, which is made by de-inking, shredding, and repulping used paper, can be remade into newsprint, cardboard boxes, paper bags, and other paper products. In addition, processes for recycling paper into copying and computer paper are being developed by scientists.

Paper can also be used as animal bedding during cold or wet months. Because paper can absorb more than twice as much moisture as straw, there is less manure to haul. Livestock stays cleaner and drier when paper is used. Because the soy ink that is used today in printing is non-toxic, spreading the paper and the manure on fields together will not harm the soil quality. Paper even breaks down well enough that no-till farmers can use it in their operations and spread it on their fields as well.

Several major types of plastics can now be recycled. Plastic containers are melted and molded to make such plastic materials as plastic "lumber,"

furniture frames, and garbage cans. The Federal Food and Drug Administration also recently gave approval for plastic soda bottles to be remanufactured back into soda bottles. I can take the 20-oz. Mountain Dew bottle that I drank from this morning to a recycling plant, and within a year, you could be drinking from a bottle that contains some of the very same plastic. But, can you believe that the same plastic pop bottle could also be made into the back of carpets? Image Industries, a manufacturer of carpet, can take your soda bottle, process it into a type of plastic mesh, and it will support a carpet that you could be walking on.

Farmers are now beginning to play a major role in environmental awareness. Perhaps the 1996 Counter Lock 'N' Load commercial best explains the role of the farmer in his or her environment. "I'm responsible for being an active environmentalist," the commercial explains, "not an environmental activist." Pesticide bottles that many farmers use can now be recycled back into new jugs through programs in most states. These recycling programs got started in

the late '80s and early '90s and have continued to grow and expand across the nation. Most of the programs got started with the help of the United States Environmental Protection Agency and are now supported by a corporation or are self-supporting. For instance, the program in Illinois is sponsored in part by the DuPont Corporation while the programs in Washington, Ohio, and Nebraska all support themselves. These programs tend to start slowly and grow by leaps and bounds in the first three years. The program in Nebraska saw a 550 percent increase in the number of bottles collected from the first year to the third. Illinois did even better and saw over a 900 percent increase. Before recycling, farmers must pressure rinse or triple rinse their containers. Once the containers have passed the inspection process, they are

provided a more efficient source of heat than coal and helps conserve natural coal resources. The results of this program show that the farmers of the state are willing to dispose of their chemical containers safely and correctly but need an avenue that is cost effective and reasonable.

Recycling is not all that we can do to help save our soil and environment. A new program called Operation Greenstripe has been started by the Monsanto Corporation. The program is offered through local FFA chapters, and encourages farmers to have "buffer strips" along their creek beds. The strips serve as filters to trap soil sediment and agricultural chemicals, keeping streams clean while also helping to maintain the integrity of the stream banks. In addition, the soil has no opportunity to float away with the water because it is held in place by the roots of the grass.

***"More than 450 million tons of waste are produced annually in the United States. Only one-third of this amount is recycled"***

chipped and granulated in the on-site grinder. The chips are taken to a processing facility where they are melted into liquid form, molded into the shape of a bottle, filled with pesticides and sold to farmers for the coming season. These programs are a prime example of what is known as "closing the loop" in plastics recycling, which means using a product and then using it again.

The recycled plastic can also be used as fuel in cement kilns or to develop more experimental products. As a fuel, the plastic

Let's try again. The place: Anytown, USA; the date: Nov. 12, 2097. The earth is a beautiful paradise. Birds chirp and flowers blossom. This is all happening because humans became educated, and they took action to keep the earth beautiful for future generations. By becoming educated and being active environmentalists, we will be able to restore the beauty of the earth. Through environmental awareness, future generations will be as happy as this generation.







# National Career Development Events

From taste-testing colorful fruit cereal to trouble-shooting engines, the participants in the National Career Development Events matched their mettle against the most talented FFA members in the nation. The most discerning eyes, the best planners and astute reasoners from Maine to Hawaii gathered at the 70th National FFA Convention to test their knowledge and skills in events held all over the greater

Kansas City area. These members put to the test years of classroom learning and practice in their specialty areas.

The events started Wednesday, and results of each event were announced at sponsor-hosted luncheons or breakfasts at the end of the week. Winning teams and individuals were recognized at the Saturday morning convention session.

## AGRICULTURAL ISSUES FORUM

*Sponsored by Elanco Animal Health, A Division of Eli Lilly and Company*  
First Place: Emery Senior  
FFA Chapter, Emery, Utah

## AGRICULTURAL MECHANICS

*Sponsored by Firestone Agricultural Tire Company in conjunction with the Bridgestone/Firestone Trust Fund*  
First Place: Lancaster  
Mennonite FFA Chapter,  
Lancaster, Pa.  
High Individual: Jeremy  
Eagan, Shelbyville, Mo.

## AGRICULTURAL SALES

*Sponsored by Asgrow Seed Company*  
First Place: Sumner FFA  
Chapter, Sumner, Wash.  
High Individual: Cristina  
Cornejo, Orange Grove,  
Texas

## DAIRY

*Sponsored by Associated Milk Producers, Incorporated and Babson Bros. Co./SURGE*  
First Place: Woodstown FFA  
Chapter, Woodstown, N.J.  
High Individual: Michael  
Redalen, Lanesboro, Minn.

## DAIRY FOODS

*Sponsored by Mid-America Dairyman, Inc.; Dairy Management, Inc.; and Patz Sales, Inc.*  
First Place: LaVernia FFA  
Chapter, LaVernia, Texas  
High Individual: Tiffany  
Doege, LaVernia, Texas

## FARM BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

*Sponsored by John Deere*  
First Place: North Callaway  
FFA Chapter, Kingdom  
City, Mo.  
High Individual: Richard  
Stanberry, Kingdom City, Mo.

## FLORICULTURE

*Sponsored by American Floral Endowment; Ball Horticultural Company; The Solaris Group—Ortho/Roundup/Greensweep; Witco Corporation and scholarships by Sun Company.*  
First Place: Heron Lake-Okabena-Lakefield FFA  
Chapter, Okabena, Minn.  
High Individual: Brad  
Shockley, Buffalo, Mo.

## FOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

*Sponsored by Kellogg*  
First Place: Dayton FFA  
Chapter, Dayton, Or.  
High Individual: Jay Turner,  
Tucson, Ariz.

## FORESTRY

*Sponsored by Champion International Corporation; Schrade Cutlery; and Union Camp Corporation*  
First Place: Taylor FFA  
Chapter, Taylor, Ark.  
High Individual: Carol  
Spruill, Jefferson, Ga.

## HORSE

*Sponsored by Chrysler Corporation Fund—Dodge Trucks; and Manna Pro Corporation, "The Calf Manna" Company"*  
First Place: Arroyo Grande  
FFA Chapter, Arroyo  
Grande, Calif.  
High Individual: Sandie  
Kipe, Arroyo Grande, Calif.

## LIVESTOCK

*Sponsored by Purina Mills, Inc.*  
First Place: Charleston FFA  
Chapter, Charleston, Ill.  
High Individual: Rosalea  
Riley, Swoope, Va.

## MARKETING PLAN

*Sponsored by Rhône-Poulenc Ag Company*  
First Place: Snyder FFA  
Chapter, Snyder, Texas

## MEATS

## TECHNOLOGY AND EVALUATION

*Sponsored by Excel Corporation; Hormel Foods Corporation; and Oscar Mayer Foods Corporation*  
First Place: Mason High FFA  
Chapter, Mason, Texas  
High Individual: Joe  
Langehennig, Mason, Texas

## NURSERY/ LANDSCAPE

*Sponsored by CHIPCO/Specialty Products Division of Rhône-Poulenc Ag Company; Kubota Tractor Corporation; Valent U.S.A. Corp.; the American Association of Nurserymen, Inc.; and Wholesale Nursery Growers of America, Inc.*  
First Place: Chatham  
Central FFA Chapter, Bear  
Creek, N.C.  
High Individual: Zane  
Purvis, Bear Creek, N.C.

## PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

*Sponsored by Novartis Crop Protection*  
First Place: Ritzville FFA  
Chapter, Ritzville, Wash.

## POULTRY

*Sponsored by Tyson Foods, Inc. and American Proteins, Inc.*  
First Place: LaVernia FFA  
Chapter, LaVernia, Texas  
High Individual: Steven  
Lowak, LaVernia, Texas







# National Officer Candidates

*National Officer Candidates reception and dinner sponsored by Bayer Corporation, Agriculture Division*

Thirty nine of FFA's finest put themselves to the organization's ultimate test—running for a national FFA office. Each year, six officers are elected at national convention, after enduring a week of intensive interviews and exams. The officer election during Saturday afternoon's session provided some of the most nail-biting, energy-charged moments of the convention.

The new president, secretary and four regional vice presidents will each travel more than 100,000 miles during their year of service. They visit FFA chapters across the United States, and meet with youth and agricultural organizations in Japan and Europe, as well as U.S. leaders in agriculture, business, government and education.

The 39 candidates all earned the American FFA Degree and are outstanding leaders in their state associations. Turn to page 75 to read about the new officers elected from this remarkable group of young people.



*Being called to the stage as a new national FFA officer is the ultimate dream of many members. The 39 members shown here actively pursued that dream during the 70th National FFA Convention. They endured hours of rigorous interviews and small group situations to be elected as one of six national FFA officers.*

ALABAMA: Amber Miller, Louisville  
 ARIZONA: Andrea Sokol, Peoria  
 ARKANSAS: Justin L. Goforth, Mountain Home  
 CALIFORNIA: Ryan Bertao, Tulare Western  
 COLORADO: Dave L. Gibson, Briggsdale  
 CONNECTICUT: Jamie-Lee Chandler, Lebanon Regional  
 FLORIDA: Maggie Goodin, Taylor Senior  
 GEORGIA: Hillary Smith, Perry  
 ILLINOIS: Amy M. Matthews, Lincolnwood  
 INDIANA: Elisha L. Priebe, Southmont  
 IOWA: Erik E. Heggen, Prairie Valley  
 KANSAS: Andy Armbruster, South Barber  
 KENTUCKY: Kristie M. Broadbent, Trigg County  
 MAINE: Emily G. Smith, Caribou  
 MASSACHUSETTS: Leslie Brown, Bristol County  
 MICHIGAN: Teresa M. Swamba, Capac  
 MINNESOTA: Josh D. Tjosaas, Long Prairie  
 MISSISSIPPI: Chrisy R. Berry, Warren Central  
 MISSOURI: Mark Wilburn, Van-Far  
 MONTANA: Lyndsey K. Fosbery, Flathead

NEBRASKA: Jennifer A. Jarecke, Fullerton  
 NEVADA: Greta L. Gardner, Ruby Mountain  
 NEW JERSEY: Christine F. Patten, Woodstown  
 NORTH CAROLINA: Robbie S. Minnich, Chase  
 NORTH DAKOTA: Jim MacDonald, Bismarck  
 OHIO: Shannon E. Wilcox, Upper Scioto Valley  
 OKLAHOMA: Ben Lastley, Freedom  
 OREGON: Raymon J. Smith, Bonanza  
 PENNSYLVANIA: Michael L. Clark, West Perry  
 SOUTH CAROLINA: Robert McManus, Lexington  
     Applied Technology Center  
 SOUTH DAKOTA: Ryan Cammack, Sturgis  
 TENNESSEE: John B. Marshall, Riverdale  
 TEXAS: Cody Nash, Tolar  
 UTAH: Nathan Ivie, Bingham  
 VIRGINIA: Dana A. Fisher, Central High School  
 WASHINGTON: Hillary R. Fulk, Sumner  
 WEST VIRGINIA: Kevin Okes, Shady Spring  
 WISCONSIN: Michael R. Tauscher, Pulaski  
 WYOMING: Libby D. Petsch, Southeast







# Stars Over America

*Stars Over America film is sponsored by the Farm Service Agency, United States Department of Agriculture; and the General Fund of the National FFA Foundation. Cash awards are sponsored by the executive sponsors of the National FFA Foundation.*

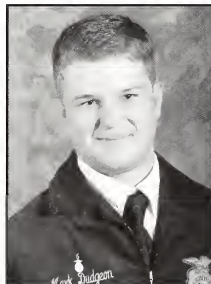
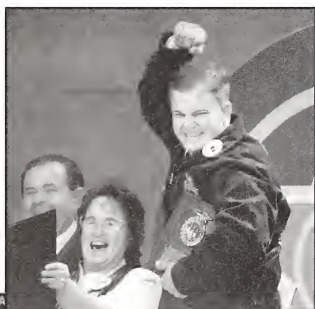
The spotlights illuminating the stage Thursday night dimmed in comparison to the beaming faces of the eight Stars Over America finalists. These members had been awarded FFA's highest honor in agribusiness and production agriculture, and it was a proud moment as they stood with their parents and advisors before a cheering crowd in Municipal Auditorium.

The audience had the opportunity to see firsthand the efforts that brought the stars to Kansas City, via a film that highlighted each finalists' agricultural production or business operation. Each finalist received \$1,000, and both national stars received an additional \$1,000 cash award. In addition, the parents of each finalist was presented with the Honorary American FFA Degree.



*An exultant Mark Dudgeon, American Star in Agribusiness (right), shares a congratulatory handshake with American Star Farmer Mike McIntyre.*

*American Star in Agribusiness Mark Dudgeon celebrates as he is named the winner of the FFA's most prestigious member award.*



**Mark Dudgeon, 20**  
Mt. Vernon, Ohio  
East Knox FFA Chapter  
**American Star in Agribusiness**

Dudgeon started his enterprise with a 12-by-12 greenhouse in his backyard made from scrap material. He now rents and manages three-and-a-half acres of trees, shrubs and seedling beds in North Carolina.



**Mike McIntyre, 21**  
Winfred, S.D.  
Lake Central FFA Chapter  
**American Star Farmer**

Sound financial management is essential to McIntyre's 500-head cattle operation. He uses the Data Transmission Network and forecasting reports to make his livestock marketing decisions.



Once the Stars Over America names are called, the winners are caught up in a whirlwind of meetings, interviews, receptions and other media events. Orion Samuelson, of CHANNEL EARTH Communications, catches the stars in a post-session interview.



## AMERICAN STAR FARMER FINALISTS



*Ryan Michael Sweeney, 19  
Kingsburg, Calif.  
Kingsburg FFA Chapter*

As a 10-year-old, Sweeney persuaded his parents to buy a ranch. His early love of the land has blossomed, and he now manages his family's 90 acres of fruit trees and grape vines.



*Travis Barrett, 20  
Hope, Kan.  
Chapman FFA Chapter*

Barrett grows more than 100 acres of wheat and milo and raises 65 head of cattle on 200 acres of rented pasture. Accurate records and constant attention to details are his keys to success.



*John David McFerrin, 20  
Cotton Center, Texas  
Cotton Center FFA Chapter*

McFerrin is a fourth-generation farmer who began his enterprise on seven acres. Today, with nearly 700 acres of corn and cotton, he uses water conservation methods to save valuable top soil and keep his yields high.

## AMERICAN STAR IN AGRIBUSINESS FINALISTS



*Steven Mickels, 22  
Darien, Conn.  
Stamford FFA Chapter*

When Mickels started mowing his neighbor's lawn, he didn't envision a future business which now serves more than 90 customers in the summer and 50 in the winter. Mickels' Landscape employees seven people.



*Jason M. Warzinik, 20  
Stevens Point, Wis.  
Waupaca FFA Chapter*

Warzinik spends much of his time monitoring animal populations and studying ecosystems in Alaska and Wisconsin. He has propagated more than 115 species of native plants through his research projects.



*Jon Jason Herrick, 21,  
Franklin, Neb.  
Franklin FFA Chapter*

As a freshman Herrick bought four registered Simmental cattle. His herd has grown to more than 40 registered cattle and 10 feeder cattle. Herrick credits his success to marketing and detailed management.







# American FFA Degrees

Sponsored by American Cyanamid Company, Agricultural Products Division; Case Corporation; Farm Credit System; and Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.

Members receiving the American FFA Degree were rewarded for their years of hard work during Saturday afternoon's special ceremony. Only 1,711 young people earned the coveted degree this year, which honors members with outstanding supervised agricultural experience programs and leadership activities over their entire FFA careers. Recipients were congratulated on stage and received American FFA Degree keys and certificates to signify their accomplishments.

**ALABAMA:** Mark Bedsole, Slocomb; Fronte Burgin, East Lawrence; Nicky Case, East Lawrence; Joseph Cottingham, East Lawrence; Corey Gillespie, East Lawrence; Mark Gillespie, East Lawrence; Randall Graham, Daleville; William Harper Jr., Wetumpka; Johnathon Harris, Russellville; Jason Holland, Speake; Bart Johnson, Speake; Jody Kiel, Russellville; Foster Knowles, Ardmore; Amber Miller, Louisville; Carla Moore, Billingsley; Shon Richey, Sardis; Wesley Sanford, Wetumpka; Jonathan Simmons, Wetumpka; Nathan Walden, East Lawrence

**ARIZONA:** John Boelts, Kofa; Shawn Byron, Peoria; Clay Cooke, Willcox; Denise Davies, Safford; Ken Denoyer, Chandler; Brandon Figg, Peoria; Audra Fischler, Duncan; Clinton Fischler, Duncan; Darcy Johnson, Payson; Shelaine Johnson, Peoria; Allan Mahnk, Amphitheater; Ginger Marks, Round Valley; Alana McQuarry, Amphitheater; Kimberly Morgan, Amphitheater; H.B. Mulcaire, Mingus Union; Vincent Nielson, Peoria; Mandy Peterson, Antelope; Byron Rovey, Agua Fria; Jason Rovey, Agua Fria; Charles Schooley, Agua Fria; Nikki Simpson, Round Valley; Andrea Sokol, Peoria; Amanda Telles, Elfrida; Heather Telles, Elfrida; Josh Williams, Casa Grande

**ARKANSAS:** Jason Bryant, Valley Springs; Julie Cantrel, Siloam Springs; Glenn Cole, Prairie Grove; Barry Denton, Hatfield; John Ervin, Alpena; Christine Fritts, Huntsville; Justin Goforth, Mountain Home; Schardi

Hale, Springdale; Travis Hester, Prairie Grove; Emily Jordan, Fairview I; Matt Lockard, Mountain Home; Jennifer Marty, Guy-Perkins; Allen Moore, Lincoln; Mark Rhein, Mountain Home; Shannon Tribble, Ridgecrest; Kortney White, Oak Ridge Central; Johnny Winn, Ridgecrest

**CALIFORNIA:** Kenneth Abelow, Clovis; Desiree Acosta, Fullerton; Greg Aguiar, Chowchilla; Cynthia Allen, Chino-Don Lugo; Troy Allen, Tulare Union; Thomas Aquino, Chowchilla; Stephanie Armstrong, Escondido-Orange Glen; Jedadiah Asmus, Gustine; Oscar Ayala, Galt; Steven Barker, Visalia-Mt. Whitney Visalia; Ian Barnes, Escondido; Michael Belezouli, Tulare Union; Javier Bernal, Livingston; Stacey Betz, Santa Maria; Frank Bigelow, Tollhouse-Sierra; Robert Bill, Biggs; Margaret

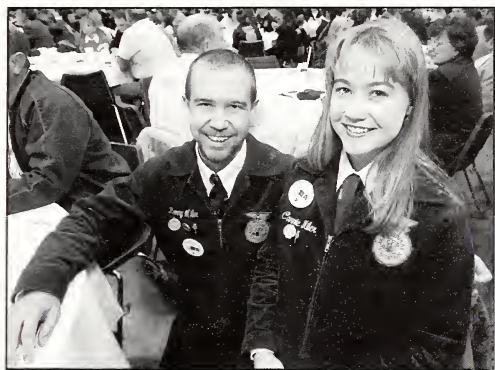
Blair, Lemoore; Garrett Borrelli, Gustine; Joan Boyd, Kingsburg; Amanda Brown, Rosamond; Benina Burroughs, Atwater; Michelle Byrum, Riverside-Norte Vista; Andrea Cadmus, Quartz Hill; Jason Cain, Lemoore; Corey Cardoza, Gustine; Melanie Coffman, Gilroy; Justen Cole, Dixon; Gabriel Cooper, Corcoran; Joseph Costa, Tulare Union; Jeff Crusha, Lemoore; Daniel Dallas, McFarland; Josh Darnell, Dos Palos; Byran Davis, Visalia-Mt. Whitney Visalia; James Davis, Lemoore; Natisha Delerio, Dos Palos; Nicole Delerio, Dos Palos; Mike DeRose, Tulare Western; Rancey Dobbs, Clovis; Tiffany Duran, Riverside-Norte Vista; Ammie Eggleston, Chino-Don Lugo; Emmalene Eichner, Petaluma; Patrick Eidman, Grass Valley-Nevada Union; Kent Elliott, McFarland; Jaime Ervin, Kingsburg; Anthony Fagundes,

Chowchilla; Jalyrn Fanning, Chowchilla; Traci Ferreira, Hanford; Raymond Figueroa, Corcoran; Tanya Frogge, Bloomington; Dan Gallagher, Dixon; Nick Garcia, Galt; James Garner, Hanford; Pedro Gastelum, Dixon; Kenneth Gates, Mira Loma-Jurupa Valley; Chris Giannini, Half Moon Bay; Michelle Gibbs, Hanford; Chope Gill, Dixon; Kenny Goforth, Hanford; Aime Gonzalez, Orosi; Jodi Halkum, Lemoore; Ronda Hamm, Fresno Central; J.R. Hardesty, Elk Grove; George Harrison, Hanford; Todd Hartill, Arbuckle; Josh Henslee, Grass Valley-Nevada Union; Jeffery Hill, Fallbrook; Adam Hinojosa, Riverside-Norte Vista; Kara Hunter, Fowler; Tom Illingworth, San Luis Obispo; Laura Isaacs, Santa Rosa; Andrea Klein, Chino-Don Lugo; Laura Kubota, Morgan Hill; Jack Kuhnast Jr., Riverside-Norte Vista; Tawniya Larabee, Fullerton; Jennifer Lindemann, Fairfield-Armijo; Michelle Lindo, Gustine; Christine Litton, Quartz Hill; Bobbi Lohmeyer, Coalinga; Daniel Lorman, Maxwell; Neil Love, La Habra-Sonora; Jonette Machado, Tulare Western; Congetta Maita, Elk Grove; Stacy Marquez, Orosi; Daniel Martin, Tulare Western; Jeff Mathy, Fullerton; Garth Maze, Visalia-Mt. Whitney Visalia; Michelle McDowell, Clarksburg-Delta; Traci McLaughlin, Tehachapi; Gary Moore, Dixon; William Morgan, Riverside-Norte Vista; Pete Nelson, Oceanside-El Camino; Jennifer Nilsen, Phelan-Serrano; Amy Nunes, Gustine; Charles O'Neal, Escondido; Jeffrey Olson, Kingsburg; Anthony Parreira, Tulare Union; Eric Pigeon, Dixon; Melinda Pomi, Petaluma; Ted Ponce, Santa Maria; Thomas Putzel, Corcoran; Kimberly Randall, Escondido-Orange Glen; Matthew Ray, Lemoore; Justin Rayn, Dixon; Amelia Reed, Clovis; Erin Reese, Santa Paula; Lisa Rego, Gustine; John Relvas, Gustine; Thea Rhodes, Salinas North Salinas; Mathew Rivera, Escondido; Michele Rodrigues, Lemoore; Daniel Rodriguez, Gonzales; Modesta Rodriguez, Coalinga; Kristin Rose, Gustine; Sara Rose, Canoga Park; Dusty Rossi, King City; Tara Sagniere, Clovis; Mary Sanchez, Tulare Western; Gabriel Santos, Atwater; Westley Schager, Hamilton City; Erica Seropian, La Puente Valley; Bryan Soares, Turlock; Traci Soares, Tulare Western; Dawn Stornetta, Forestville; Ryan Sweeney, Kingsburg; Nathan Sweetman, Clovis; Paulo Thomas, Gustine; Kimberly



Alvin Johnson, advisor of the Slocomb, Ala., FFA Chapter and his students, Mark Bedsole (left) and Jason Shell, partake in the breakfast honoring American FFA Degree recipients.





*Ronny Miller supports his sister Connie, who received her American FFA Degree. Both are members of the Clovis, N.M., FFA Chapter*

Tosta, Newman; Jason Uchita, Tulare Union; Kimberly Vaughn, Escondido; Ben Veenendaal, Hanford; Heather Venegas, Lemoore; Richard Viethier, Elk Grove; Kelly Warner, Ramona; Robert Whiteford, Fullerton; Jennifer Whitlatch, Corcoran; Kristen Wills, Lemoore; Melissa Wills, Lemoore; Lindsay Wilmeth, Kingsburg; Stephanie Wood, Corcoran; Brent Young, Visalia-Mt. Whitney Visalia; Stacey Zimmerman, Tomales

COLORADO: Jody Ancell, Montrose; Ryan Batts, Cedaredge; Christina Berryman, Olathe; Justin Boxberger, Sterling; Zachary Breazeale, Eaton; Michael Criswell, Yuma; John Deering, Yuma; Jason Desserich, Fruita Monument; Jason Dinsmore, Arickaree; Dave Gibson, Briggsdale; Daniel Gillham, Peetz; Jeremy Hansen, Burlington; Kristen Hoozee, New Raymer; Ryan Hudson, Fruita Monument; Brian Hutt, Sterling; Andy Jones, Flagler; Katelyn Kemmel, Fort Morgan; Amy Kinnison, Yuma; Kevin Koester, Sterling; Joseph Koon, Durango; Justin Kuntz, Lone Star; Kari Mergelman, Cedaredge; Tyler Molloy, Lone Star; Crystal Nelson, Fruita Monument; Mike Nichols, Flagler; Joseph Nicklas, New Raymer; Brenton Ormiston, Pritchett; Marsha Paulich, Branson; Wesley Pollart, Sterling; Tara Sackett, Arickaree; Terra Schurr, Cortez; Nicolas Scott, Burlington; Quentin Smith, Cortez; Brad Sumpter, Kim; Robert TenEyck, Fruita Monument; Don Wailes, Byers; Jill Westhoff, Fort Morgan; Robert Willich, New Raymer

CONNECTICUT: Jamie-Lee Chandler,

Lebanon Regional; Larysa Czerepacha, Lyman Hall; Jennifer Fleet, Northwestern Regional; David Haversat, Woodbury; Steven Mickels, Stamford Reg. Ag Ed Center; Daniel Welsh, Housatonic Valley

DELAWARE: William Currey IV, Middletown; Adam Jarrell, Lake Forest

FLORIDA: Karen-Ann Cranford, Lake Butler; James Crews, Dixie Sr.; Sarah Dasher, Branford; Deidre Davison, Lake Butler; James Deen, Forest High; Jolie Gillis, Ponce De Leon; Maggie Goodin, Taylor; Gerald Green Jr., Lake Weir; Rob Hatch, Dixie County; Teresa Hulsey, Bradford Sr.; Stephanie Jones, Bunnell; Natalie Keene, South Sumter; Meghan McCracken, Gaithier; Patricia Revels, South Sumter; Paul Rowan, Sneads; Jeffrey Satin, Gaithier; Audra Smith, Gaithier; Catharine Smith, Gaithier; James Smith, Moore Haven; Joshua Smith, Lake Butler; Stephanie Swindle, Plant City; Judson Tanner, Lake Butler; David Thomas, Ponce de Leon

GEORGIA: Brandy Baxley, Perry; Jason Bennett, Colquitt County; Megan Howard, Morgan County; Michael McCullough, Harlem; Eric McDaniel, Cook; Hamp Meeks, Bacon County; Timothy Meeks, Tift County; Brian Moseley, Chattooga; Kimberly Roberts, Franklin County; Eric Rountree, Cook; Glenn Sapp, Colquitt County; Hillary Smith, Perry; Jerry Stone, Colquitt County; Joey Thompson, Colquitt County; Anthony Tillman, Colquitt County; John Walker, Colquitt County;

Johnny Wheels, Wayne County; Terrell Wilkinson, Stephens County

IDAHO: Quincy Asay, Malad; Britni Beck, Burley; CeLes Beck, Burley; Trevor Bott, Minico County; David Bowen, Burley; Jacque Church, Fruitland; Ron Cleverly, Melba; Carol Colson, Meridian; Patrick Darrow, Castelford; Travis Edwards, Kuna; Zane Gillette, Burley; Tyler Hepworth, Burley; T.J. Hyatt, Payette; Isaac Jensen, Malad; Luke Kellar, Cambridge; Tim Lamney, Middleton; Josh Malson, Fruitland; Jack Miller, Payette; Pamela Ritchie, Madison; Trey Roberts, Kuna; Becky Scheithing, New Plymouth; Clayton Showell, Malad; Ruben Van Tassel, Burley; Roger Wells, Castelford; Steven Wells, Castelford

ILLINOIS: Bradley Anderson, Serena; Brian Balch, Ashton; Katie Boruff, Westmer; Nathan Brown, Alexis; Dan Byers, Roseville; Adam Cramsey, Liberty; Katie Dallam, Franklin Center; Matthew DeBlock, Alcedo; Todd Ehlers, Trico; Thomas Flack, Eastland; Cheryl Frericks, Liberty; Daymon Gast, Hinckley-Big Rock; Gwendolyn Grimm, Alexis; Elias Grove, Metamora; James Halteran, Waterloo; Zachary Horn, Sullivan; Amy Ingram, Athens; Aimee Janssen, Milford; David Jordan, Central A&M; Lisa Karr, Normal; David Kuntz, Woodland; Matthew Kurtz, Olney; Hunt Lacey, Nokomis; Tiffany Lanoue, Manteno; Jeff Longlett, Liberty; Amy Matthews, Lincolnwood; Jody McDaniel, Eldorado; Peg McLouth, Bushnell-Prairie City; Eric Muffler, Serena; Timothy Nelson, Manteno; Daniel Parker, Seneca; Ryan Payne, Hillsboro; Vince Reincke, Nokomis; Kris Rhodes, Nokomis; Brandon Ritter, North Clay; Ty Scherler, Brimfield; Brian Stark, Central of Clifton; Todd Stewart, Nokomis; Kimberly Walker, Jacksonville; Brent Wallace, Leroy; Matt Warner, Ashton; John Yagow, Lincoln; Rebecca Zimmerman, Eureka

INDIANA: Ryan Albaugh, Carroll; Clint Arnholt, Columbus East; Brett Beckner, Carroll; Randall Be II, Greencastle; Brian Buchanan, Evansville Reitz; Angela Buckland, Huntington North; Matthew Cain, Hagerstown; Samantha Cain, Tri-County; Amy Carroll, Huntington North; Justin Crover, Whiteland; Stacy Demerly, Tri-County; Abby

Dougherty, Whiteland; Benjamin Duttlinger, Kankakee Valley; Dave Duttlinger, Kankakee Valley; Alan Flora, Carroll; Trenton Fredenburg, Shenandoah; Eric Freeman, Owen Valley; Matt Gilbert, Huntington North; Kelly Goedde, North Posey; Alan Goings, McCutcheon; Natalie Gray, Switzerland County; Joshua Grubbaugh, Woodlan; Anita Hieber, Woodlan; Alicia Hill, Brownstown; Joseph Kern, Heritage Hills; Timothy Kuhn, South Adams; Robert Martin, Fairfield; Matt Maxwell, Southmont; Philip McCutchan, Mount Vernon; Aaron McMillan, Southern Wells; Evan Melloncamp, Brownstown; Jerod Metzger, Rossville; Adam Monhait, Bremen; Kimberly Morlock, Mount Vernon; Timothy Newcomb, Gibson Southern; Brad Rasche, Forest Park; Kimberly Rothenberger, Rossville; Michelle Ruple, East Noble; Archie Sauerheber, North Harrison; Amy Schipper, North Miami; Brad Schutte, South Decatur; Jamie Scott, Whitko; Pamela Scott, Delta; Benni Shore, Clinton Central; Brian Shultz, Prairie Heights; Lisa Simon, Huntington North; Christopher Snyder, Seymour; Nathan Stauffer, Southern Wells; Eric Steiner, South Adams; Valerie Taulman, Tri-County; Paul Vaughn, Southmont; Scott Walters, East Noble; James Wolhether, Prairie Heights

IOWA: Lisa Ahrens, Osage; Evan Behrens, Carroll Area; Matthew Berninghaus, Hawkeye; Kathleen Block, Maquoketa; Christopher Bowman, Central; Matthew Chambers, Audubon; Brenda Cousins, Anamosa; Jeremy Davis, Olin; Tim Dillon, Sumner; Ryan Dobbins, Graettinger; Joseph Eggers, West Marshall; Mike Ehlers, Laurens-Marathon; Andrew Friedrichsen, Central; Scott Grantz, Northeast; Erik Heggen, Prairie Valley; Brian Holatz, Garner Hayfield; Ben Johnson, Osage; Lonnie Johnson, Alburtett; Kevin Jones, Montezuma; Kyle Kaufman, Manson Northwest Webster; Christopher Krapfl, Cascade; Kevin Kroeger, Carroll Area; Tammi Lake, Edgewood; Brice Leonard, Colfax Mingo; Brad Lines, Rockford; Jamie Malloy, West Marshall; Darren Martin, Mount Ayr; Jaime Merrill, Anamosa; Cory Meyer, North Fayette; Curt Mikkelsen, Orient-Macksburg; Eric Miller, Anita; Matthew Miller, Northern Butler; Ann Moberg, Creston; Jeffery Morris Jr., Algonia;



Amey Mounce, Alburett, Samuel Murray, Decorah; Brian Nabb, Maquoketa; Jamie Nabb, Maquoketa; Nathan Nus, Stormont; Jeff Peters, Central; Christopher Pint, Wapsie Valley; Kim Ranfield, Montezuma; Angela Rowson, Central; Jason Sallach, Red Oak; Michelle Saville, Creston; Eric Schmitt, Rockford; William Soesbe III, Clarion-Goldfield; Shamus Stephens, Creston; Brenda Stewart, Fox Valley/Van Buren; Justin Stover, Wapello; Shane Swenson, Okoboji; Matthew Thie, Mediapolis; Ben VanSickle, Prairie Valley; Jason Vos, Montezuma; David Wendt, Osage; Dustin Wiley, Mount Ary; Charity Winterboer, Clay Central-Every; Donald Zitterich, Graettinger

KANSAS: Andy Armbruster, South Barber; Travis Barrett, Chapman; Ginger Brown, Girard; Bradley Davis, Chaparral; Sheldon Eisele, Fredonia; Daniel Goodman Jr., Holton; Kent Grimm, Sabetha; Corbin Hostetler, Chaparral; Justin Lefert, Chapman; Trevor Lieb, Pike Valley; Allison Marsteller, Chapman; Darrin Olson, Altoona; Douglas Schrader, Atchison County; Jami Stump, Valley Heights; Jake Worcester, Hill City

KENTUCKY: Byron Amburgey, Montgomery County; Charles Blankenship II, South Laurel; Craig Board, Caldwell County; Kristie Broadbent, Trigg County; Fred Brown, Estill County; Jason Butler, Spencer County; Gregory Camenisch, Lincoln County; Victoria Cannon, Fleming County; Mary Cooper, Fleming County; Summer Dixon, Greenwood; Jamie Goode, Apollo; Chris Gravit, Warren East; Kelvin Greenfield, Todd Central; Edward Grimes, Warren East; Misty Hager, Jessamine County; Kristin Hall, Scott County; Stephen Hammond, Spencer County; Heidi Hayden, North Hardin; Allison Henson, Fulton County; Jeremy Hinton, Breckinridge County; Thomas Horning, Caldwell County; Heather Hulin, Fulton County; Justin Leach, Lincoln County; Kevin Leet, Apollo; Erika Lynch, Fulton County; Brian Macy, Breckinridge County; Joseph Massey, South Laurel; Darryl Matherly, Spencer County; Jon McKinnis, Fulton County; Lathan McVickers, Lyon County; Christy Miller, Breckinridge County; Misty Ruth Miller, Garrard County; Amanda Muss, Fulton County; Roger Ovesen, Lurie County; Grant Pittman,

Calloway County; Amanda Ramer, Central Hardin; Joseph Reynolds, Lincoln County; Melanie Roberts, Wayne County; Christopher Robey, Logan County; William Rudy, Ballard Memorial; James Schulte, Scott County; William Slaton, Hopkins County Central; John Starnes, Edmonson County; Jeremy Truax, Spencer County; Dawn Vinson, Caldwell County; Derek Warford, Heath; Crystal Whitehouse, Spencer County; Richard Scott Wilson, Breckinridge County

LOUISIANA: Jared Madden, Saline; Rena Richard, Midland; Jane Sandel, Florien; Katie Sandel, Florien; James Stephens, Pine

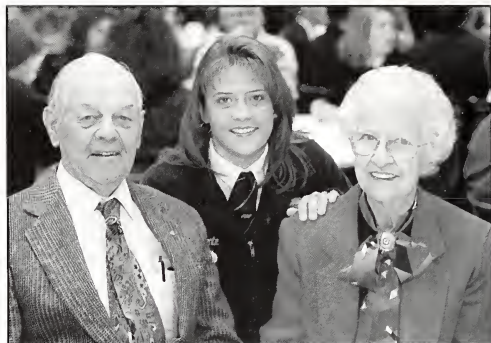
MAINE: Scott Boucher, Presque Isle; Scott Caron, Mars Hill; Ryan Kenney, Presque Isle; Joy Rayburn, Presque Isle; Emily Smith, Caribou

MARYLAND: Melissa Willard, Catoctin

MASSACHUSETTS: Leslie Brown, Bristol

MICHIGAN: Kerry Ackerman, North Adams-Jerome; Michael Allen, Saint Louis; Carolyn Alwin, Laingsburg; Andy Atherton, Byron; Nathan Clark, Sanilac Career Center; Melinda Dailey, Port Hope; Melanie Endres, Saranac; Matt Glass, Byron; Troy Gordon, Saline; Luke Haywood, Hastings; Olan Humm, Breckenridge; Jeremy Jorae, Laingsburg; Aaron Little, Saint Louis; Jessica Madigan, Chippewa Hills; Kelly Mahar, Byron; Kevin Nugent, Lowell; Timothy Place, Perry; Kristin Prelesnik, Mason; Kathryn Shaull, Ithaca; Chris Smith, Laingsburg; Danielle Smith, Perry; Wayne Daniels, Laingsburg; Teresa Swamba, Capac; Nicholas Van DenBrink, Coopersville; Kyle Weidmayer, Saline; Damon Williams, Homer; Derek Williams, Homer; Allison Woodworth, Laingsburg; Melissa Wright, Vicksburg

MINNESOTA: Laura Alberts, Pine Island; Joe Biren, Fulda; Corey Boehnke, Fulda; Tom Brichack, Staples/Motley; Cory Buysse, Tracy; Brian Cuperus, Fulda; John Ellingsberg, Kenyon Wanamingo; Kelly Erdmann, Barnesville; Matt Evans, Marshall; Brian Fenske, Perham; Curt Frank, United South Central; Mark Groen, Lanesboro; Billy Haehnel, Staples/Motley; Laura Heiden, Rushford-Peterson; Frank



*Allen R. and Lois Twente traveled to Kansas City to see their granddaughter, Jamie Twente of the Napoleon, Mo., FFA Chapter, receive her American FFA Degree. Allen attended the convention as a member in 1932.*

Heldberg, LeSueur; Phillip Hill, Sioux Valley Round; Sarah Houghlum, Norman County West; Kevin Hovde, Leroy-Ostrander; Eric Huper, United South Central; Brandon Huston, United South Central; Mike Kinnunen, Menasha; Angela Klimek, Alexandria; Larry Konsterlie, Willmar; Jennifer Lyngen, Montevideo; Dan McCarvel, Sioux Valley-Round; Thomas Meyer, United South Central; Bradley Milbrath, Heron Lake-Okabena-Lakefield; Michael Milbrath, Heron Lake-Okabena-Lakefield; Cheryl Miller, Pine Island; Lance Miller, Pipestone/Jasper; Adam Molitor, Foley; Patricia Norman, New Ulm; Darren O'Rourke, United South Central; Marcus Poppler, Waconia; Jeff Resch, Heron Lake-Okabena-Lakefield; Jeremy Rosin, United South Central; Jason Scheffler, Zumbrota-Mazepa; David Schrader, United South Central; Brian Schultze, United South Central; Philip Skoglund, Tracy; Jeremy Spitzner, St. James; Aaron Stegmann, Heron Lake-Okabena-Lakefield; Curt Stude, Sioux Valley-Round Lake-Brewster; Mark Tilberg, Montevideo; Daryl Traver, Waconia; Gregory Trydik, Alexandria; Jakin Tyrrell, Staples/Motley; Matthew Warmka, United South Central; Kimberly Weckwerth, Montevideo; Stephanie Yonker, Jackson

MISSISSIPPI: John Boone, West Marion; Wesley Nations, Lawrence County; Kenny Stamps, Lawrence County; David Wilson, Franklin County; Brad Woods, Seminary

MISSOURI: Andrew Adam, Plattsburg; Dan Arnsperger, Salisbury; Jennifer Atkisson, Columbia; Sarah Aubuchon, Hermann; James Aufdenberg, Jackson; Levi Bader, Campbell; Brian Baird, Holcomb; Patrick Bastow, Rock Port; Christie Bauer, Ash Grove; Briana Bays, Halfway; Clint Blankenship, Cassville; Christopher Block, Wellington-Napoleon; Charles Brown, Westran; Matthew Bullard, Ashland; Michael Burnett, Cole Camp; Andrew Burns, Marshall; Rachel Byron, Columbia; Krissy Cain, El Dorado Springs; Jessica Callow, Nowaday-Holt; Nikki Chandler, Butler; Adam Cockrum, Lathrop; Patricia Coffman, Ste. Genevieve; Charlene Collins, Putnam County; Andrew Cook, Jackson; Nicholas Covey, Lathrop; Steven Cribbs, Pleasant Hope; Elizabeth Cromer, Laclede Area Vo-Tech; Jeffrey Dalbey, Northwest Tech; Derek Davis, Marshall; Mark Davis, Neosho; Matthew Davis, Eldon; Gabriel DeWitte, Polo; Dustin Dilly, Nevada; Dana Dixon, Hamilton; Deborah Dooley, Knox County; Gregory Elliott, Brunswick; Charli Epperly, Cassville; Kevin Eulinger, Maysville; Denton Farmer, Polo; Tom Fenner, Sweet Springs; Tonya Fifer, Holden; Stephen Flehmer, Pierce City; Sara Fletcher, Breckinridge; Adrienne Folta, Wellsville Middletown; Cindy Gerlemann, Hermann; Lucas Gibson, Richland; Leonard Gillespie, Charleston; Todd Goldinger, Palmyra; Jeffery Goodnight, Carthage; Melinda Grable, Norborne; Ben Grace, Laclede Area Vo-Tech; Martin Graham, Eldon; Preston Graves, Trenton; Amanda Gray, Memphis; Gabe Gray,



Greenfield; Brandi Green, Memphis; David Gulley, Putnam County; Michael Gurley, Appleton City; Eric Hagedorn, East Newton; Brent Harris, East Newton; Joy Hedeman, Lockwood; Travis Heldenbrand, North Central; Derek Hendren, Mark Twain; Beth Hirsch, Thayer; Aimee Hiskett, Gallatin; Matthew Hiskett, Gallatin; Aubrey Homan, Smithville; Christopher Hulse, Palmyra; Trae Humphreys, Trenton; Erika Hutson, Trenton; Mary Johnson, Marshallfield; Teisha Jung, Aurora; Bobby Kerr, Pleasant Hill; Wendi Kester, Ste. Genevieve; Brian Kidwell, Eldon; Garan Kinser, Mansfield; Rachael Kircher, Pleasant Hill; Kendra Kollmeyer, Farmington; Scott Kuttentkuler, Tipton; Carol La Faver, Milan; Christopher Lasher, Gallatin; Mark Lehenbauer, Palmyra; Josh Lewis, Laclede Area Vo-Tech; Tracy Link, Brunswick; Barton Mabry, Clopton; Matt Madewell, Aurora; Michael Mahan, Bakersfield; Carrie Maines, Columbia; Kyle Malter, Malta Bend; Richard Martin, Ashland; Travis Matthews, Norborne; Brian McCrary, Gallatin; Shawn McEwen, North Shelby; Nicole Melton, Dadeville; David Mikus, Wright City; Andy Miller, Memphis; Jacky Miller, Brunswick; John Miller, Palmyra; Melanie Miller, Macon; Donna Monnig, Glasgow; Karen Moore, Houston; Adrienne Nielsen, East Newton; Randall Neth, Eldon; Doug Nichols, Marshall; Keeland Nix, Mountain Grove AVTS; Jennifer O'Neal, Tina-Avalon; Kelly O'Neal, Hardin-Central; Justin Oaks, Grundy County R-V; Derek Payne, Aurora; Matthew Peiter, Palmyra; Michelle Polston, Wellsville Middletown; Ryan Preul, Columbia; Jason Price, Marshall; Robert Pruitt, Richland; Margaret Rausch, Perryville; Shaun

Reichert, Brunswick; Steven Reynolds, Sarcoxie; Brian Rhoades, North Callaway; Marye Robertson, Memphis; Gregory Rotert, Clinton AVTS; Diane Rothemich, North Callaway; Annette Ruesler, Jackson; Jason Rush, Eldon; Randy Rush, Lamar; Rebecca Russell, Columbia; Marcus Sanders, Glasgow; Steven Sapp, Columbia; Michael Schroeder, Union; Clay Sellmeyer, Slater; Christopher Seward, Clopton; James Shaver, Plattsburg; Chad Shippy, Crest Ridge; Deneane Sickels, Mansfield; Andrew Siebenborn, Grundy County R-V; Douglas Simms, Butler; Josh Sims, Sweet Springs; Amy Smith, Chillicothe; Billy Smith, Chillicothe; Marc Spickert, Columbia; Edward Spreckelmeyer, Hermann; Alex Stemme, Hermann; Michael Stephenson, East Buchanan; Wesley Straatmann, Union; Zach Stuchlik, Hamilton; Samuel Sullivan, Troy; Christina Teter, Macon; Marcus Thogmartin, East Newton; Thomas Thompson, North Harrison; Robert Todd, Ash Grove; Joanie Triplett, Memphis; Lindsey Trosper, Hamilton; John Tummons, Ash Grove; Jamie Twente, Wellington-Napoleon; Ernst Uthlaut, Hermann; Alan Utterback, Monroe City R-1; Jason Vance, Centralia; Shaun Watsol, Cabool;

Carmen Webb, Norborne; Lucas Whitney, Putnam County; Corey Wilkinson, Plattsburg; Brenda Wilson, North Shelby; Elizabeth Wilson, Doniphan; Jason Wilson, Gallatin; Shawn Witherow, Knox Co.; Kim Woods, Memphis; Calvin Woolsey, Summersville; Christopher Way, Macon; Charles Youngblood, Carthage; Keith Zerr, North Callaway; Raymond Ziler, Jasper

Karina May, Hampton; Shane Moeller, Northwest; Darren Nelson, Genoa; Ernest Neubauer, Syracuse Dunbar Avoca; Shane Norsesen, Loup City; Christopher Nun, Geneva; George Nygren, Mead; Crystal Ogden, West Holt; Megan Patent, Randolph; Troy Patzel, Newman Grove; Sara Pavelka, Blue Hill; Jeffrey Peters, Henderson; Julie Phelps, Franklin; Jason Pilakowski, Genoa; Sonya Plugge, Wheeler Central; Jeff Rankin, Newman Grove; Robert Rankin, Newman Grove; Jacqueline Rasmussen, Hampton; Mark Reuschling, West Holt; Ryan Reuter, Scottsbluff; Rusty Rosenthal, Fairbury; Jeff Ruggles, Republican Valley; Jon Sagehorn, Logan View; James Schildt, Seward; Ron Siemers, Northwest; Jason Smith, West Holt; Kendal Sock, Genoa; Jason Stam, North Loup Scotia; Jon Stam, North Loup Scotia; Jeremy Stelk, Northwest; Cliff Stukenholtz, Nebraska City; Tammy Thies, Lewistown; Tyler Thiessen, Hampton; Chris Tordrup, Superior; Bryan Twarek, Genoa; Becky Unterseher, Lexington; Lance Urban, Leigh; Wade VanMeter, Superior; Brandon Warden, St. Paul; Jeremy Wesely, Milford; Michael Wieckhorst II, Nebraska City; Kimberly Wiggins, Fairbury; David Wilke, Lakeview; Mark Wolken, Diller; Tony Woodruff, Butte

MONTANA: Tamara Beardsley, Miles City; Christi Davenport, Colstrip; Trisha Gordon, Chinook; Clayton Hofeldt, Chinook; Tanith Hofeldt, Chinook; Neil Iversen, Culbertson; Justin Liddle, Chinook; Paul Michels, Medicine Lake; Jill Miller, Shields Valley; Kevin Miller, Culbertson; Candice Oellers, Culbertson; Alex Offerdahl, Miles City; Mollie Ostendorf, Miles City; Jeffrey Rodrick, Stevensville; Stuart Schilling, Park; Michelle Vaneck, Shields Valley

NEBRASKA: Chad Adams, Broken Bow; Brock Anderson, Gothenburg; Jason Bagen, Superior; Douglas Bedke, Ravenna; Dustin Brabec, Leigh; Rebecca Brooks, Republican Valley; Lee Burns, Kimball; Eric Coulter, Ravenna; Bart Deterding, Cambridge; Scott Dietrich, Leigh; William Dodds, Cedar Rapids; Paul Donahue, Central; Philip Erdman, Bayard; Jed Erickson, Wisner-Pilger; Crystal Farr, Cambridge; Byron Flood, Newman Grove; Eric Ford, Rock County; Todd Franzen, Lakeview; Jeffrey Glimsman, Hampton; Nathan Goertzen, Henderson; Joshua Graham, Randolph; Jason Hausmann, Butte; Jon Herrick, Franklin; Timothy Hodges, Nebraska City; Trevor Hoegh, Hampton; John Holtze, Cambridge; Andrew Janzen, Henderson; Jennifer Jarecke, Fullerton; Clark Jensen, Palmyra; Amy Juricek, Crete; Jennifer Kaslon, Loup City; Matthew Kibbon, Hampton; Kurt Kisker, Republican Valley; Brandon Kliever, Hampton; Shawn Koch, Gothenburg; Timothy Krause, Ansley; Jason Kreifels, Nebraska City; Adam Kriha, Chappell; Angie Kusek, Loup City; Jeffrey Larsen, Butte; Carl Levy, Imperial; Ryan Lewandowski, Loup City; Charlotte Liermann, Wisner-Pilger; Brad Luebbe, Seward; Ann Malander, Fullerton; Mike Malander, Fullerton; Brian Maricle, Albion;

NEVADA: Greta Gardner, Ruby Mountain; Wendy Henderson, Ruby Mountain; Michael Laxaque, Carson Valley; Kimberly Newton, Smith Valley; James Riordan, Ruby Mountain

NEW HAMPSHIRE: Kimberley Hannum, Pinkerton Academy Clicking Clan

NEW JERSEY: Jeffrey Bowlby, Polych Central; Barbara Hutchinson, Allentown; Mitchell Jones, Belvidere; Benjamin Patten, Woodstown; Christine Patten, Woodstown; Rocky Russo, Polych Central; Donna Shinn, Northen Burlington; William Taylor, Cumberland Regional; Cindy Tilton, Freehold

NEW MEXICO: Kelly Adams, San Jon; Richard Bagley, Corona; Micah Deason, Clayton; Megan Denning, Tatum; Stacy Graham, Des Moines; Brande Lockwood, Moriarty; Eva Madrid, Hatch; Cash Massey, Animas; Kansas Massey, Animas; Connie Miller, Clovis; Carrie Purcella,



*Nearly 150 FFA members from California received the American FFA Degree. Above, proud parents Robert and Margaret Uchita enjoy breakfast with their son, Tulare Union FFA's Jason Uchita.*



*Orosi FFA members Stacy Marquez (left) and Aimee Gonzales also attended Saturday morning's reception for degree recipients.*



Roswell Goddard; Angela Ray, Artesia; Rian Stewart, Artesia; Clinton Taylor, Roswell; Robyn Tivis, House; Charlie Woods, Grady; Toby Woods, Grady

NEW YORK: Brent Croscut, Sherman; Terri Kennedy, Schoharie; Chad Mason, Hamilton Central; Erin McCaffrey, Schoharie; Jason Saddlemire, Schoharie; Andrew Sears, Falconer; Benjamin Smith, Cobleskill-Richmondville; J. C. Staib, Chateaugay; John Winterton II, Vernon-Vernona-Sherrill

NORTH CAROLINA: James Carver, Madison; Daniel Chapman, Alexander Central; Eric Deal, South Rowan; Kristen Effle, Riverside; Aaron Fleming, South Rowan; Keith Garner, Eastern Randolph; Barry Jennings, Camden; Wesley Jones, Ledford; Robbie Minnich, Chase; Chris Morgan, South Rowan; Daniel Overcash, South Rowan; Myles Payne, Alexander Central; Jared Sasnett, South Lenoir; Daniel Shives, Eastern Randolph; Jason Staples, Camden; William Strader, Bartlett Yancey; Frederick Sutton, North Lenoir; Wayne Turner, Bartlett Yancey; John Upton, Camden; Tyler Vandemark, Southern Nash; Daniel Wells, Clyde Erwin; Nathan Wells, South Rowan; William West, Midway; Nick Williams, Camden

NORTH DAKOTA: Steven Anderson, Leeds; William Bear, Jamestown; Ronnie Graczyk, Lisbon; Justin Green, Granville; Renee Hanretty, Schultz; Sandy Hanretty, Schultz; John Nannenga, Jamestown; Jay Pauly, Wahpeton; Ryan Pederson, Rolette; Kary Rath, Wishek; Ronda Schmidt, Center; Scott Vetter, Napoleon; Andrew Viele, Wahpeton; Jeremy Wald, Maddock; Justin Ward, Wahpeton

OHIO: Denny Abke, Elmwood; Kevin Abt, Blanchester; Beth Adee, Blanchester; Joel Albright, Western Reserve; Scott Alexander, Otsego; Kristen Ammons, Benjamin Logan; Beth Anderson, Benjamin Logan; Daniel Arnold, Hillsdale; Mike Augenstein, River Valley; Becky Baas, Ripley Union Lewis; Wes Baham, Triad; Doug Baird, Buckeye Trail; Beth Bales, Margaretta; Brian Barkley, Buckeye Valley; Mark Barnes, National Trail; Chris Barr, Liberty Union; Tom Baughman, Upper Valley;

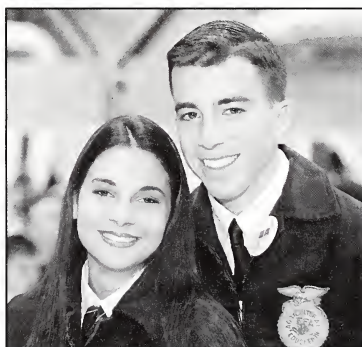
Charles Beatty Jr., River View; Terry Beck, Pettisville; Steven Beiser, Edgewood-Butler County; Nicholas Beveridge, Lancaster; Tom Blue, Westfall; Michael Boehm, Hardin Northern; Corey Boes, Arcadia; Douglas Bower, Holgate; Joel Boysel, Benjamin Logan; Josh Brandt, Buckeye Career Center; Andy Bricker, Madison Plains; Aaron Burch, United; Chad Burkly, Buckeye Career Center; Stacey Burns, Fairbanks; Trevor Burns, Fairbanks; Emily Buxton, River View; Jaime Chenevey, Hillsdale; Matt Christman, Buckeye Trail; Andrew Comstock, Hardin Northern; Nathan Cronkleton, Benjamin Logan; Brian Cummings, Hillsboro; Lee Dalt, Ada; Jason Dagger, Urbana; Dawn Deaton, Miami East; Kevin DeMange, Versailles; Arthur Dewald, Hopewell-Loudon; Katherine Draper, Hillsdale; Mark Dudgeon, East Knox; Nick Dues, Fort Recovery; Debra Dugan, East Knox; Troy Duncan, Galipolis; Kim Enderle, Hillsdale; Brian Erhart, Kalida; Margo Feichtner, Willard; Scott Frombaugh, Wellington; Andrew Fry, Plymouth; Chris

Fuchs, Preble Shawnee; Jeffrey Garbrant, Delaware JVS; Jeremy Garbrant, Delaware JVS; Michael Garrison, Cloverleaf; Jason Gibson, Blanchester; Jennifer Gorsuch, Medina Animal Care; Bryan Gortner, Northwestern-Wayne; Adam Graham, Triad; Cindy Grassbaugh, East Knox; Kyle Green, Otsego; Ryan Grimme, Twin Valley South; Andrea Grube, Northwestern-Wayne; Mike Hann, Madison Plains; Jerrod Hansel, Live Oaks; Joel Holsopple, Pettisville; Jeni Horn, Ridgedale; Jason Howard, Galipolis; Jeremiah Huffman, Willard; Karen Hummel, Bellevue; James Hutchinson, Eastern Brown; Matthew Johnson, East Clinton; Jeremy Jordan, Alexander; Robin Jordan, Wellington; Suzanne Jordan, Benjamin Logan; Eric Kaufman, Hillsdale; Andrew Keil Jr., Penta

County; Kenn Keyser, Lincolnview; Christine Kohler, Wellington; Andrew Kolb, Wellington; Scot Kreienkamp, Elmwood; Kristi Kress, Eastern Brown; Shawn Lauber, Pike-Delta-York; Dereck Leatherman, Pettisville; Larry Leonard, Mt. Gilead; Kristen Lewis, Medina Animal Care; Ryan Lidke, Margaretta; Melissa Long, Talawanda; Eric Lowery, Hardin Northern; Amy Martin, Willard; Curtis Martino, Margaretta; Andy Maurice, Graham; Sarah McCoy, Hillsboro; Carrie Meranda, Georgetown; Adam Miller, Talawanda; Amber Miller, Liberty Union; Angela Miller, Carrollton; Rob Miller, Madison Plains; Christina Mimier, Margaretta; Christy Molnar, Buckeye; Clay Morris, Franklin

Alison Sexten, Madison Trace; Jason Sheehy, Madison Plains; Jesse Smith, Blanchester; Kari Spiker, Tri-Valley; Adam Staley, Mt. Gilead; Daniel Stevens, Western Reserve; Matt Stoller, Paulding; Todd Summit, Carey; John Thirt, Ridgedale; Nate Thirt, Upton Sandusky; Justin Thompson, Marysville; Chad Threewits, Mississinawa Valley; John Trumpower, Lucas; Ty Ulrey, Mt. Vernon; Jennifer Vollmer, Talawanda; Steven Weadick, Preble Shawnee; Alexandra Wenisch, Live Oaks; Travis West, Alexander; Rachel Whetstone, Willard; Chris Wriederhold, Blanchester; Dustin Wilcox, Kenton; Stacy Williamson, River View; Matt Winkle, Blanchester; Kevin Winner, Versailles; David Zellner, Mohawk

OKLAHOMA: Amy Acree, Canton; Amy Baggett, Tahihina; Kyle Baker, Aline-Cleo; Justin Ball, Chandler; Dustin Beams, Kingfisher; Jennifer Beck, Holdenville; Cody Blaylock, Poteau; Matt Boston, Adair; Jerry Busby, Caddo; Keith Busse, Alva; Jeff Butler, Carnegie; Bradley Casey, Kiowa; Robert Corbin, Durant; Dany Daniel, Tahihina; Jaime Day, Elmore City; Derek Dick, Nowata; Mark Doherty, Burdick; Dusty Elm, Sweetwater; Howard Erikson, Alva; Scott Flanary, Muskogee; Dennise Foster, Tahlequah; Mandy Fritz, Mountain View-Gotebo; Stephen Fruen, Poteau; Jimmie Gainer, Coweta; Clint Gibson, Nowata; Vance Gibson, Hardesty; J.W. Gist, Spiro; Jason Glass, Cement; Jon Glazier, Lomega; Toby Graves, Adair; Dallas Greenwood, Adair; Hank Hamil, Cashion; Aleasha Hamilton, Noble; Kristin Harrison, Kingfisher; Caleb Hennigh, Laverne; Gabriel Herold, Hooker; Amy Higdon, Fletcher; Amanda Hill, Wilburton; Rocky Hollan, Wister; Michael Holland, Snyder; Jake Holloway, Chattanooga; Rocky Honeywell, Billings; Dallas Horn, Carnegie; Lanell Imke, Shattuck; Michael Jackson, Burlington; David Jeter, Copan; Tyler Kamp, Laverne; Billy Kilpatrick, Adair; Chad Kirk, Tipton; Robert Knauss, Carnegie; Levi Krasser, Chattanooga; Jay Kunze, Dale; Mary Kuykendall, Cushing, Ben Lastly, Freedom; Justin Lesley, Sweetwater; Ryan Littau, Balko; Martin, Idabel; Larry McConnell Jr., Elk City; Christopher McCoy, Mountain View-Gotebo; Celua McCullah, Pryor; Megan McCullough, Wilburton; Megan McElroy, Snyder; Sara McGaha, Tecumseh; Ryan



Meghan McCracken of Gaithersburg, Md., and James Smith of Moore Haven, Fla., both received their American Degrees on Saturday

Monroe; Angela Murphy, Morgan; Donald Murphy, Madison Plains; Cherie Nichols, Upper Scioto Valley; John Nicol, Fairbanks; Jeremiah Ogdin, Mowrytown; Adam Osswald, National Trail; Lisa Overmyer, Oak Harbor; Anna Patterson, Mt. Gilead; Joe Pennington, Evergreen; Brian Phelps, Fairbanks; Becky Philpot, Versailles; Janice Poorman, Sheridan North; Amy Poth, Liberty Union; Carrie Prince, Cardington; Amber Pulse, Lynchburg Clay; Missy Raudebaugh, Hillsdale; Jeremy Reed, Kenton; Jason Reinhardt, Ross; Marie Rhoades, Versailles; Stacie Rhonemus, Mowrytown; Jason Rich, Blanchester; Justin Ringler, Crestview; Melissa Ritchie, Benjamin Logan; John Rolle, East Clinton; Mark Schiff, Teays Valley; Andy Schroeder, Leipsic; Cathie Schulte, Eastwood; Adam Scott, Fairbanks; Joshua Sears, Centerville;



McIlvain, Lomega; Dustin McLemore, Spiro; Joe McPherson, Frederick; Ginni Mercer, Dover; Christy Merrill, Empire; Mindy Moore, Taloga; Brock Morgan, Burlington; Nicholas Mueller, Guyton; Matt Murray, Lomega; Kent Neeland, Hennessey; Keith Neugebauer, Indianahoma; Patrick Norman, Davenport; Kelli Null, Laverne; Mark Oppel, Lomega; Brandon Osborne, Roland; Jerry Osland, Hennessey; Brandon Parent, Spiro; Ross Patterson, Sulphur; Trent Patton, Chattanooga; Brandon Payton, Adair; Stephanie Pettigrew, Yukon; Corey Pritchard, Mountain View-Gotebo; Shayla Regnier, Balko; Rebecca Rice, Kingfisher; Terish Ritter, Leflore; Charlotte Robbins, Tahliana; Treavor Rockenbach, Burlington; Polly Ross, Locust Grove; Gary Schieber, Newkirk; Adam Schilde, Dover; Matt Schupbach, Burlington; April Sebesta, Adair; Phillip Self, Kiowa; Jon Silka, Tahlequah; Misti Sloan, Shattuck; Steven Sneath, Alva; Gavin Sneath, Alva; Sherri Soules, Skiatook; Jerome Sterling, Tecumseh; Derrell Struble, Billings; Ryan Swart, Cimarron; Dustin Tackett, Binger-Engle; Jennifer Taylor, Sweetwater; Shane Teel, Cement; Brad Uhlenhake, Lomega; Brandon Vogt, Byng; Ben Warren, Sulphur; Jeffery Weeks, Canadian

OREGON: Cullen Bangs, Knappa; Hope Beckett, Douglas; Justin Brill, Dayton; Kristin Crane, Sutherlin; Megan Cross, Dayton; Thomas Currier, Crook County; Daniel Dawson, Glide; Micah Dickey, Willamina; Kathrin Dunlap, Crater; Jeff Ediger, Dayton; Andrew Ettestad, Molalla Union; Mark Gardner, Culver; Anthony Gubbels, Silverton; Chris Guthrie, North Clackamas; John Hamel, Glencoe; Sarah Hammelman, Silverton; Mary Hannan, Molalla Union; Christina Hansen, Molalla Union; Phil Hansen, Molalla Union; J.C. Harmon, Vale; Bryan Henny, Gervais; Mark Johnson, Molalla Union; Heidi Kay-Leppin, Dayton; Renee Kline, Dayton; Stephen LaFrance, Days Creek; Nathan Leao, Phoenix; Trina Lee, Sutherlin; Amy Lenz, Knappa; Amber Littlejohn, Willamina; Frederick Magenheimer, Molalla Union; Tim Mallorie, Culver; Nathan Marple, Creswell High School; Eric McClellan, Dayton; Kyle Melton, McLoughlin; Marlene Mensch, North Lake; Michael Petty, Creswell; Danielle Posch, Jefferson; Kristel

Probst, Jefferson; Kyle Ransom, Pine Eagle; Robert Reed, Vail; Lynn Rossner, McMinnville; Anthony Santos, Glide; Douglas Singleton, Glide; Christie Thom, Canby; Ryan Weaver, Knappa; Wilmer Zollman, Enterprise

PENNSYLVANIA: Michael Batz, Northern Lebanon; Jason Baughman, Berlin Brothersvalley; James Bozinski, Mohawk; Scott Brofee, Greenwood; Michael Clark, West Perry; Wade Esbenschade, Grassland;

University; Brandon Nagel, Gettysburg; Anthony Reit, Harrisburg; Delila Schick, Miller; Travis Schuring, Groton; John Steckly, Platte; Jeff Tschakert, Florence; Reada Woehl, Menno

TENNESSEE: Herbie Adams, Johnson



Above, degree recipients from the Pettitsville, Ohio, FFA Chapter pose with their advisor, John Poulson (back row, left). Front row, l. to r.: Joel Holopple, Terry Beck. Back row: Dereck Leatherman.



Timothy Hodges (left) and his father Dan, both of Julian, Neb., share a proud moment during Saturday's American FFA Degree breakfast. Dan received his State FFA Degree as a member.

Brian Fick, Oley Valley; Daniel Geissinger, Juniata; Troy Gelsinger, Conrad Weiser; Andrew Harpster, Tyrone Area; Travis Hartranft, Manheim; Stacy Hildreth, West Greene; Shannon Hoffman, Middleburg; Andrew Horning, Grassland; Karena Kaiser, New Oxford; Jason Kleinlefer, Conrad Weiser; Stacey Miles, Cowanesque; John Miller Jr., Oley Valley; Eric Rogers, Albion; Curtis Turner, Central Columbia; Darrel Weaver, Grassland

PUERTO RICO: Juan Maury Salas, Manuel Mendez Liciaga

RHODE ISLAND: Todd Kenney, Charho; Kendyl Yeaw, Scituate

SOUTH CAROLINA: Robert McManus, Lexington Applied Technology Center

SOUTH DAKOTA: Michael Albers, Harrisburg; Mark Beitelbacher, Bowdle; Chad Byer, Florence; Ryan Cammack, Mead-Brown; Brian Fergen, Menno; Matthew Flemming, Florence; Roy Gjerde, Willow Lake; Paul Grace, West Central; Tom Grygiel, Florence; Justin Handel, Menno; Tara Hoffman, Bowdle; Kari Horsley, Wessington Springs; Michael Kroll, Groton; Lance Larsen, Groton; Mike McIntyre, South Dakota State

County; Keith Ailshie, South Greene; Kelli Allen, Dyersburg; Sterling Anthony, Northeast; Leslie Bernard, E. Robertson; Bree Bichon, Beech; James Blankenship, Riverside; P.W. Blankenship, Jackson Central; Wesley Brady, McMinn Co.; Amber Branscum, Riverside; Clayton Cooper, Humboldt; Tracy Croft, McMinn Co.; Trey Dyer, Warren County; Steve Ellis, Northeast; Jimmy Farless, Warren County; Jason Hardison, Culleoka; Logan Haynes, Riverside; Lorie Hickey, White; Jacob Hubbell, Culleoka; Bradley Hunt, Adamsville; Brian Jones, E. Robertson; Deanna Lamb, Eagleville; Patrick Luna, Culleoka; Molly Mays, Johnson County; Melissa McGuire, Dyersburg; Reggie Montgomery, Riverside; Chaney Mosley, Eagleville; Travis Mundy, Powell Valley; Cliff Parks, Dyersburg; Jason Pitt, E. Robertson; Aaron Rigby, Warren County; James Robinson, White Co.; Micki Taylor, Peobody; William Vestal, Riverside; Neil Walker, Warren County; Patrick Wilcher, Warren County; Jason Wiles, Humboldt; Misty Wood, Lexington; Michael Woods, Lexington

TEXAS: Jason Adamitz, Pleasanton; Brian Albert, Pleasanton; Jessica Andrews, Pleasanton; John Boegner Jr., Bryan; Michael Boles, Sulphur

Springs; Weston Born, Follett; Todd Boyd, Union Grove; Amber Brantner, Lovelady; Joey Bray, Mabank; Jordan Brod, Columbus; Laura Canter, Tomball; Lisa Canter, Tomball; Eric Cieslewicz, Sealy; Jason Ciomperlik, Pleasanton; Haley David, Orange Grove; Forrest Davis, Corrigan-Camden; Jennifer Jo Dawley, Groesbeck; Rachel Dawley, Mexia; Jason Dieterich, Riesel; Trey Drake, Kirbyville; Jami Ferrell, Gilmer; Melanie Frank, Columbus; Mathew Galliton, Henrietta; Analae Garcia, Cotulla; Andy Gardner, Lufkin; Amanda Gode, Quitman; Wade Golden, Academy; Tara Hagendorf, Columbus; Dwayne Hartmann, Sealy; Frank Heiflin, Sulphur-Rosser; Benjamin Hill, Hully Daisetta; Chad Hill, Sulphur-Rosser; Brad Hinton, Snyder; Tiffany Holub, James Taylor; Andrew Howell, Sulphur Springs; Matthew Howell, Sulphur Springs; Ben Hughes, Kirbyville; Mathew Hughes, Corrigan-Camden; Amber Hunger, Cotulla; Tessie Ingram, Cisco; Frank Jousan, Joaquin; Jason Katsmorak, Pleasanton; David Kloss, Sealy; Sara Kocurek, Tuloos-Midway; Sandra Kowalik, Falls City; Kelly Kurz, Odem; Carrie Lennon, North Hopkins; Wes Mason, Woden; John McFerrin, Cotton Center; April McWhorter, Madisonville; Lane





Receiving the American FFA Degree was doubly gratifying for both sister. Laurel and Lisa Carter of the Jambail FFA Chapter, Iowa.

[illegible]

WEST VIRGINIA Joshua Butcher, Ripley; Tam Crithfield, Roane County; Susan Lewis, Doddridge County; Diana Hall, Ripley; Lora Hammack, Ripley; Matthew Linton, Hedgescove; Linda Herz, Ripley; Deana McNutt, Boone County; Kevin Muhlbach, Ravenswood; Bennie Stages, Mineral County; Crissy Stephens, Ripley; Mallory Youara, Barbours.

POCCASIN Timothy Akims, Black  
Husk Randy Allen, Denmark, Joshua  
Husker Andrew Stacey Bacon  
Wapauka Cynthia Baer Durand  
Break Bitter Tomah Black Bertram  
New Holston William Reuthen  
Wisconsin Heights Steven Birkholz,  
Lakota Lake Elizabeth Blum  
Johnson Creek Sarah Blum  
Creek Tiffany Fectcher Osco  
Fairchild Ted Beksa Wapauka, Imu  
Brady Lomira Treva Biede Ronducl  
Charles Neenahan Wisconsin  
Heights-Madame Scott Bross  
Sperger Adam Bufa, Antigo Brad  
Burnette Black Hawks-South  
Wayne Clinton Burren, Wapauka,  
Randall Clark Marvinville Kory  
Cummings Baraboo Chris DeBuhr  
Platteville Kelle Dieter Platteville  
Rebecca Doman Watertown Arc  
Combus Burlington Cametien  
Garnett Wapauka Brian Felt  
Marshall Jennife Fighmy, Fort  
Atkinson Jennifer Labry Oconto  
Fairbault Jennifer Leister Fort

Arkness: Michael Folgate, Black  
Hewitt: Jeremiah Fredrickson, Amery  
Chromople: Iremud, New Holstein  
Blonde: Coach Brillant, Erie, Gehring  
Sloster: Hina Gubin, Beaver Dam,  
Jagor: Diane, Coscola, Amy Hayden,  
Tiorani: Brian Henning, Marshall  
Brom: Hermann Valders, Kelly  
Hagers: Auburndale, Sheri Holt  
Babcock: James Helwida, Randolph  
Marilyn: Hyde, New Auburn, Selena  
Fackelson: Darlington, Johnlyn Jernan  
Wapauca: Melissa Johnson, Wapauca  
Jill Petri: Randolph, Anita Jurgens

Steve Ashburn, Suzanne Jurewsky,  
Lillian Grace, Rebecca Kapinos,  
Dennis Tracy, Kate Martin, Jay  
Kortz, Wanda, Karen Frahn,  
Dennis, Kelly Kreutz, Montello,  
Alex, John Jay East, Jason  
Landolt, Emma, Lynn Lashenberg,  
Lizbeth Alma Center, Marsh  
Lynette, Green Bay, Ted, James  
Finlay, Mandrell, Corey Leiber,  
Aronwald, Clark Lanning,  
Suzanne Kelly, Lucille Brillion,  
Bernie Duck, Blower, Danielle Luke,  
Wangara Scott Magnusson,  
Nadine de Damm, Meyer, Loyal, John

Milroy, Watertown, Christopher  
Neusser, Mishicot, Arden Niemiuth Jr.,  
Weyauwega-Fremont, John Noga,  
Mauston, Michael Olt, Randolph;  
Stephanie Olson, Pecatonica-  
Blanchardville, Cory Ott, Brillion;  
Douglas Olt, Lodi, Jeffrey Parsons,  
Antigo, Aaron Paul, Coleman, Ann  
Paulman, De Forest, Monica  
Pechowski, Berlin, Matthew Porrier,  
Unity, Marie Press, Royall-Efroy,  
Kevin Pronschinske, Independence,  
Brad Prosser, Columbus, Matthew  
Quade, Randolph, Brian Ray,  
Mishicot, Rebecca Reckek, Beaver  
Park, Amy Rich, Bondiuel, Joe  
Richardson, Durand, Kari Riley,  
Waupaca, Jennifer Ritaica, Johnson  
Crek, Christina Rose, Beaver Dam,  
Becky Rotering Arcadia; Chad Ryan,  
Lomira, Eric Schachiner, Clear Lake,  
Darren Schlewitz, Fall Creek, Mark  
Schmidt, Spencer, Ann Schmutz,  
Montello, Nick Schneider Bloomer;  
Jeremy Schroeder Weyauwega-  
Wienmont, Andy Schuh, Brillion;  
Thomas Schultz, Antigo (Chad  
Schultz, Slinger, Jennifer Schuster,  
Mondovi, Tiffany Schwandt, Beaver  
Dam, Fredenck Schwenn, Ken  
Holstein, Scott Severe, Lomira, Alan  
Shallow, Lena, Jonette Soek, Amherst,  
Timothy Strobel, Watertown,  
Kristopher Thompson, Waupaca,  
Dale Timm, Melrose-Mundoro; Jeremy  
Travis, Howards Grove, Samuel Traun,  
Durand, Charles Ubersox, Shullsburg,  
Auge, Uter Stevens Point, Jennifer  
Vilwoks, Oshkosh West, Tammy  
Voegel, De Forest, Ben Waddell,  
Marshall, Douglas Wallerman,  
Tomah, Angel Walter, Darlington,  
Jason Warzynik, Waupaca, Scott  
Watson, Monroe, Cory Weigel,  
Platteville, Molly Whitland,  
Darlington, Michael Wiedenhoef,  
Watertown, Randy Wilson, Unity,  
Andrew Wolf, Slinger, Mark  
Woodworth, Shullsburg, Randy  
Woodworth, Shullsburg, Scott  
Zimmerman, Oshkosh, Archibald

WYOMING: Ryan Bulkley, Clear Creek,  
Joseph Hall, Buffalo, Lindsay Hall,  
Powell, Heath Hornecker, Douglas,  
Anna Kukuowski, Sheridan, Colin  
Lynn, Gillette, Becky Marlatt,  
Torrington, Beverly Marlatt,  
Torrington, Libby Peisch, Southeast,  
Frederick Spreng IV, Snowy Range,  
Karin Sharp, Riverside, Jared  
Vollman, Douglas, John Waggoner,  
Snowy Range, Heidi Weber, Lander





# 100% Membership States



States which have 100 percent of their agricultural education students enrolled as FFA members were honored during the convention's opening session. FFA is an integral part of the agricultural education experience, allowing students to expand their classroom learning to situations in which they can develop leadership, personal growth and career success. That these states are able to achieve 100-percent FFA membership is a testament to the hundreds of dedicated agricultural instructors who know that students' potential is best fulfilled with opportunities outside the classroom. A successful program is comprised of quality classroom/laboratory instruction; FFA, which provides the leadership and recognition component; and a Supervised Agricultural Experience career preparation segment. These characteristics put agricultural education at the forefront of learning-by-doing education.

There are thousands of chapters in the country which have 100-percent FFA membership, and their contributions are also noted in helping to build the future for youth in agriculture.

## 100% FFA Membership

**California**  
**North Dakota**  
**Ohio**  
**Oklahoma**



*Representatives from the states of Ohio (above) and Oklahoma accepted recognition for their states' achievement of 100 percent membership.*

## Increased Membership States

Arizona	Maryland
Colorado	Maine
Connecticut	Minnesota
Delaware	Missouri
Florida	North Carolina
Iowa	Nebraska
Idaho	New Mexico
Illinois	Nevada
Indiana	Rhode Island
Kansas	Vermont
Kentucky	Wisconsin
Massachusetts	







# National Chapter Award

*Sponsored by Cargill*

The National Chapter Awards program honors chapters that excel in furthering FFA's positive image in

their program of activities. Participating

chapters are ranked as one, two or three star for their contributions to student, chapter and community development. Three of the top chapters in the nation are selected as Models of Innovation for creating superior programs in these areas at the local level.

## THREE STAR CHAPTERS

**ALABAMA:** Section  
**ILLINOIS:** Cissna Park;  
Franklin Center; Seneca  
**INDIANA:** Benton Central;  
Carroll; Clinton Central;  
Eastbrook; Heritage; Mount  
Vernon; North Montgomery;  
Prairie Heights;  
Shenandoah; South Adams;  
Southmont; Switzerland  
Co.; Western Boone;  
Whitko; Woodlan  
**IOWA:** Creston; Harlan;  
Manson Northwest  
Webster; Marengo; Sibley-  
Ocheyedan; St. Ansgar;  
Vinton; Wapsie Valley; West  
Marshall  
**KANSAS:** Chapman; Clay  
Center  
**KENTUCKY:** Scott County;  
Spencer County  
**LOUISIANA:** Hathaway  
**MISSOURI:** Carthage;  
Clopton; El Dorado  
Springs; Eldon; Gallatin;  
Marionville; Union  
**MONTANA:** Flathead  
**NORTH CAROLINA:** South  
Rowan  
**NORTH DAKOTA:** Rugby  
**OHIO:** Bowling Green;  
Hardin Northern; Indian  
Valley; Miami Trace;  
National Trail; New  
Bremen; Preble Shawnee  
**OKLAHOMA:** Elgin;  
Fairview; Jenks; Thomas

**SOUTH DAKOTA:** Elkton  
**TENNESSEE:** Bradley  
Central  
**TEXAS:** Jacksboro;  
Mansfield; McCullough;  
Mission; Snyder  
**VIRGINIA:** Central;  
Northumberland; Park  
View Sr.; Stonewall Jackson  
**WASHINGTON:** Ritzville;  
Yelm  
**WISCONSIN:** Bloomer;  
Spencer; Waupaca;  
Weyauwega-Fremont

## TWO STAR CHAPTERS

**ARIZONA:** Antelope;  
Highland; Peoria  
**ARKANSAS:** Greenwood #1;  
Lavaca; Prairie Grove  
**CALIFORNIA:** Coalinga;  
Lemoore; Norco  
**COLORADO:** Caliche;  
Eaton; Lamar; McClave;  
Pueblo County; Valley;  
Yuma  
**CONNECTICUT:**  
Housatonic Valley  
**FLORIDA:** Hamilton  
County; Lafayette Senior;  
Moore Haven; New Smyrna  
Beach; North Marion;  
Okeechobee Brahman;  
Ponce de Leon; Sebring  
Senior  
**IDAHO:** Cambridge; Kuna;  
Meridian  
**ILLINOIS:** Amboy; Ashton;  
Blue Ridge; Bushnell-Prairie

**NATIONAL WINNER—STUDENT DEVELOPMENT**  
Indian Valley FFA Chapter, Gnadenhuttan, Ohio

**NATIONAL WINNER—CHAPTER DEVELOPMENT**  
Bradley Central FFA Chapter, Cleveland, Tenn.

**NATIONAL WINNER—COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**  
Creston FFA Chapter, Creston, Iowa

City; Cambridge; Clinton;  
Eastland; Eldorado; Leroy;  
Liberty; Manteno;  
Morrisonville; Mount  
Carroll; Mount Vernon;  
Newark; Olney; Paxton-  
Buckley-Loda;  
Pinckneyville; Roanoke-  
Benson; Somonauk-Leland;  
Valmeyer; Warsaw  
**INDIANA:** Adams Central;  
Owen Valley; Reitz  
**IOWA:** Algona; Carroll Area;  
Charles City; Edgewood;  
G & G; Linn-Mar; Mid-  
Prairie; North Fayette;  
Prairie Valley; Red Oak;  
Rockwell-Sheffield; West  
Liberty  
**KANSAS:** Abilene; Arkansas  
City; Atwood; Blue Valley;  
Highland; Hill City; Holton;  
Inman; Marysville; North

Central; Norton;  
Williamsburg; Winfield  
**KENTUCKY:** Apollo; Barren  
County; Caldwell County;  
Central Hardin; Fulton  
County; Jessamine County;  
Mercer; Oldham County;  
Pendleton County; Webster  
County  
**LOUISIANA:** Lacassine;  
Midland; Rayne  
**MARYLAND:** Frederick;  
Walkersville  
**MICHIGAN:** Caledonia;  
Centreville; Marshall; Perry  
**MINNESOTA:** Benson; Blue  
Earth; Buffalo Lake-Hector;  
Forest Lake; Perham;  
Stillwater; United South  
Central; Watertown-Mayer;  
Willmar; Zumbrota-  
Mazeppa



*The top chapters in the nation were honored with National Chapter Awards for the quality of their program of activities. The awards considered the chapters' enterprising, resourceful and innovative efforts to contribute to student, chapter and community development.*



MISSOURI: Albany; Aurora; Branson; Brunswick; Cameron; Chillicothe; Columbia; Glasgow; Kansas City East; McDonald County; Monroe City; Northwest Tech; Princeton; Salisbury; Sarcoxie; Troy; Wellsville-Middletown  
MONTANA: Cascade; Shields Valley  
NEBRASKA: Blue Hill; Franklin; Ravenna; Superior; Syracuse-Dunbar-Avoca; Tri-County  
NEVADA: Ruby Mountain; Silver Sage  
NEW JERSEY: Allentown; Warren Hills  
NEW MEXICO: Alamogordo; Artesia  
NORTH CAROLINA: Forest Hills; Piedmont  
NORTH DAKOTA: Finley-Sharon  
OHIO: Anna; Ansonia; Benjamin Logan; Blanchester; Canal Winchester; Cardington; East Clinton; Elmwood; Greenville; Johnstown; Lancaster; Liberty Center; London; Margareta; Marysville; Oak Harbor; Talawanda; Versailles; West Muskingum; Westfall; Wilmington  
OKLAHOMA: Alva; Cashion; Chickasha; Drummond; Durant; Edmond; Elk City; Fort Gibson; Grandfield; Guymon; Pawnee; Ripley; Sapulpa; Tecumseh; Waynoka  
OREGON: Amity; Oakland  
PENNSYLVANIA: West Snyder  
SOUTH DAKOTA: Garretson; Groton; Harrisburg; McCook Central; West Central  
TENNESSEE: Cherokee; Dyersburg; East Robertson; Lexington; McMinn County; North Knox; Polk County; Portland; Powell Valley; Riverside; White House  
TEXAS: Booker; Calallen;

Clear Brook; Clear Creek; Clear Lake; Cleburne; Columbus; Crowley; Fairfield; Katy; Klein; Klein Forest; Nacogdoches; Navasota; Northwest; Pleasanton; Ross S. Sterling; Royal; Sinton; Tilden Co.; Tomball; Weimar  
UTAH: South Summit  
VERMONT: Central Vermont  
VIRGINIA: Abingdon; Arcadia; Beverley Manor; Christiansburg; Drewry Mason Middle; Fauquier; Fort Defiance; Holston Horticulture; James Wood;

Sundance; Pine Bluffs; Riverside

## ONE STAR CHAPTERS

ALABAMA: Enterprise  
ARKANSAS: Fayetteville; Mountain Home; Paris; Valley Springs  
CALIFORNIA: Firebaugh; La Puente Valley ROP  
COLORADO: Arickaree; Platte Valley  
DELAWARE: Sussex Central  
FLORIDA: Baker County Senior; Clewiston; Colonial;

County Area Tech & Ed Center; Byron; Unionville-Sebewaing  
MISSISSIPPI: Carthage; Neshoba Central; Putnam County  
MONTANA: Conrad  
NEBRASKA: Cedar Rapids; Centura; Imperial; Lakeview; Norfolk; North Bend; Northwest  
NEW HAMPSHIRE: Pinkerton Academy  
NEW JERSEY: North Warren  
NEW MEXICO: Aztec; Grady; Moriarty  
NEW YORK: Medina; Pioneer  
NORTH CAROLINA: Person County; Sun Valley  
NORTH DAKOTA: Kindred; Lisbon  
OHIO: Hillsboro; Madison Plains; River View; Riverdale  
OKLAHOMA: Drumright; Eufaula; Garber; Harrah; Konawa; Roland; Stratford  
PENNSYLVANIA: Berlin Brothersvalley; Cedar Crest; Grassland; Greenwood; Hans Herr; Lenape AVTS; Spud Growers; Twin Valley  
SOUTH CAROLINA: Hillcrest; Loris; McBee; Pelion  
TENNESSEE: Gordonsville; Munford; Ripley  
TEXAS: Brownsboro; Central; Comfort; Cotulla; Del Valle; Ganado; Iola; McGregor; Orange Grove; Raymondville; Rockdale; Sealy; Sidney Lanier; Throckmorton; Tidehaven  
UTAH: Bear River; Davis; Emery Sr.  
VIRGINIA: Atlee; Carroll County  
WASHINGTON: Liberty; Mount Baker; White River  
WISCONSIN: Cambridge; Freedom; Mauston; Mishicot; Mondovi; Slinger



*A program of activities focusing on student teamwork and leadership skill-building earned the Indian Valley FFA Chapter from Gnadenhutten, Ohio, top honors for student development in the National Chapter Awards program.*

Laurel Park; Turner Ashby  
WASHINGTON: Cathlamet; Eastmont; Elma; Ferndale; Mabton; Monroe; Mountain View; South Kitsap; Walla Walla; Wenatchee; Winlock; Zillah  
WEST VIRGINIA: Ripley; Roane County; St. Marys  
WISCONSIN: Barron; Beaver Dam; Big Foot; Black Hawk-South Wayne; Cochrane-Fountain City; Denmark; Elkhorn; Fort Atkinson; Granton; Kiel; Loyal; Montello; New Auburn; New Holstein; Pulaski; Stevens Point  
WYOMING: Bearlodge

Columbia; New Smyrna Beach Middle; South Lake Senior; University High; Weightman Middle; West Orange  
GEORGIA: Colquitt Co.; Northwest Georgia  
ILLINOIS: Armstrong; Colchester; Payson; Sullivan  
KENTUCKY: Breckinridge County; Ohio County  
LOUISIANA: Bell City; Grant; Oak Grove  
MAINE: Presque Isle  
MARYLAND: Caroline County  
MASSACHUSETTS: Burncoat  
MICHIGAN: Allegan







## “How Do I Get There From Here?”

Corey Rosenbusch  
National FFA President  
Glen Rose, Texas



Fifteen minutes to share with you almost 20 years of my life. Fifteen minutes to tell you what has been the biggest factor in helping me get the most out of my involvement in the FFA. It's virtually an impossible task. The irony comes in the fact that we were put in this situation once as state officers; delivering our last "FFA Words." Now we have to do it again. The last time, I tried the ultimate when I pulled a big disappearing trick out of my suitcase. This time I don't have any illusions, but what I do have is something that is going to take you for the ride of your life!

In the words of Dr. Seuss, "Oh, the Places You'll Go!" I have definitely been a lot of places this year, and every time I planned out a trip I focused on one thing. How do I get there from here? As you know from your traveling experiences, there are thousands of ways to reach your destination, from planes, trains, to automobiles! And today we are going to find out what mode of transportation is best to get you where you want to go.

“Wherever your destination might be, everyone has their very own unique way that will work best to get them there.”

FFA members—fasten those seat belts, hold on to that rope, strap in those feet, put on that helmet, and hold on for our trip to success. Let's get ready to have some fun!

What is my favorite way to get from point A to point B? Ok, I guess a Harley Davidson is not my style. Let me try something else. No, when I travel, I travel in style. You remember I said we all have places we want to go and there are thousands of ways to get there. Well, for me my destination was the top of the Smoky Mountains. That's right, point A was Gatlinburg, Tenn., and point B was the top of the Smoky Mountains. With the help of some state officers, we decided that the best way to reach our destination was to take mopeds to the top!

One of the state officers, Kristie, and I jumped on one of the mopeds and took off first. We had eight people on four mopeds, but we lost the first two coming out of the parking lot when they hit a van in oncoming traffic. We were at the front and didn't notice, so we kept on going. Here we were heading up the mountain on our styling mopeds, and then it happened. It began to rain.

At this point I was thinking what a brilliant idea this had been to take mopeds so we could get sopping wet. It only got worse because as we climbed the mountain, the temperature dropped as we hit higher elevations. We were not only soaked, we were freezing as well. Actually we looked like the characters from "Dumb and Dumber".

We finally reached the top, then it was time to head back. Being the

gentlemen I am, I decided to offer Kristie the opportunity to drive, especially since she paid for half of the rental. It was only fair. I drove up, so she should get to drive down.

We started down the hill. As we approached a sharp, 90-degree curve, I felt the bike start to wobble. Then I noticed we were crossing the yellow stripe. We lost control of a bike going 30 miles per hour, down a hill, on a curve with wet pavement, and I looked up to see a car coming toward us. I immediately developed that deer-in-the-headlights look.

As my life flashed before my eyes—and when you're 20 it doesn't take long, it was basically one big blur of blue corduroy—I realized we were no longer traveling perpendicular to the road. Instead we were traveling parallel.

The bike had turned over, and Kristie and I were skidding across the pavement. We came to a stop only by slamming into a rock wall. I'll never forget my first words as I stood up from the wreck ... "Cool." I turned to Kristie, who had served on the nominating committee which elected us the year before, and said, "I know you put me in office, but if you wanted to take me out, you didn't have to try to kill me!"

In the end, other than that scar, a rather battered shirt, and a heavily damaged bike, we were both okay. I did learn one thing. Mopeds are not the best form of transportation for me to reach my destination.

I decided to move onto other means of getting from one place to another. This time, the destination

was the end of Lake Jackson in Georgia. Being the brave or stupid person that I am, I decided I would try this trip on skis. I had never skied before in my entire life, so I thought I would give it a try.

Needless to say, that turned into a disastrous experience as well. When I let go of the rope, it hit me on the top of my foot. My foot was so badly injured that when I got in the boat I couldn't walk. I had to be carried out of the boat to the truck, and back into my room. It wasn't until 5 a.m., after five hours in the emergency room, that I realized skiing wasn't for me. I did get to ride through the airport the next day in one of those wheel chairs though!

I know now mopeds and water skis were not the best means to get from point A to point B. They were great for my travel companions, but what's important is what form of transportation is best for me. That's when I knew I must return to what I enjoy the most, which is cruising down the highway in my car. There's nothing like a road trip in a car. You have complete control over where you are going during your trip. You can stop as many times as you want, and you control the direction you want to go. Best of all, there's nothing like the thinking time you have when you drive!

Maybe cars or trucks aren't your favorite way to get there from here. Maybe what best suits you is a taxi, or a Harley Davidson, or hang gliding, but wherever your destination might be, everyone has their very own unique way that will work best to get them there.

And that is what I'm talking about when I refer to the struggle I had when I was writing my retiring address. I wanted so much to pick out the three most important things you could do as a person to help you reach your destination. That's when I realized that if I stood here and told you that you have to have a positive attitude, you have to be confident,





everyone told me I had to be good at. So from the time I was in junior high, I was working on speeches. I would do anything to give a speech. You're all saying, "junior high?" Yes, that's how caught up I

was in that preconceived notion.

That was me! Me, before I grew a brain and realized that I didn't need to focus on public speaking. There was a much deeper element I needed to work on. I had to lose the flat top and grow the FFA hair. I would sit in front of the mirror for hours with several different brushes so that my hair would look just like the state and national officers' did! That was not the answer either. The answer was simple. I needed to stop listening to what everyone else said to do, and focus on what the real answers were for Corey. That is when I developed a list.

I did a deep soul search, and rather than focusing on everyone else's ideas, I decided that I needed to work on what Corey knows he needs to work on to be a success. That's when I evaluated myself and wrote down all of my character elements that I could improve on. And it was that day, the day that I decided to get off the moped and the water skis, and get into the car, that I began to grow as an individual. I had to choose my own mode of transportation for getting from point A to point B.

Let me warn you of the biggest problem you'll face in choosing your transportation. When you're focusing, try to meditate on things deep in your heart, not on appearances and other people.

Appearances can gloss over what's really important. Your shoes must be polished, your tie has to be perfect, no lint can be on your jacket, and there can't be a wrinkle in those slacks. It wasn't until later that I figured out that this is not what's

most important. What matters is developing character. The day that appearance is more significant than developing strong character is the day we have lost focus. Because too often we get caught up in the look, but that means nothing if you don't have what's inside to help hold it up. Our mission is not to develop the look, our mission is to develop the person.

And now is the time to develop that person. That's right, now is the time for you to choose your mode of transportation. There are two ultimate questions that all of you have to answer prior to leaving your homes. Number one: What's your destination? What is it that you have a passion for? And number two: How are you going to get there? For four years I have tried to answer that second question and tell you how to get there, and I have finally figured it out. I do not have the answer. No one has the answer, but you. My sole purpose, and the whole purpose of all of our speeches is to motivate you to find that answer. I can't do it, only you can.



Here's how you can find it though. If you're flying home today, as soon as you get on that plane, I want you to reach in that pocket in front of you and pull out that motion sickness bag, or grab a napkin. If you're driving home, I want you to grab a napkin, a receipt or something to write on during your first stop. On that piece of paper, at the very top, I want you to write what your priorities are in your life. What is your destination? And then below, if I want you to write down all of the things that you need to do in order to accomplish that

ultimate goal in your life. It will require some deep thought and evaluation of what you like and don't like about yourself. Write down all of the things you think you need to work on to reach that destination. At that point you will not only know where you are going, but you will also know your mode of transportation.

You'll probably say, "Oh, I'll do it when I get home!" No! You must do it now, before you arrive home. You must do it while it's on your mind. Write down what you can improve on in your life. Once you're done, keep it with you. Hang it on your mirror, put it in a picture frame, throw it in your wallet. Put it somewhere so that you can see it everyday. I promise you it will help, but it's not something that is going to happen overnight. I developed my list over four years, and I still keep it in my planner, and I am still working on some of them!

The destination and way you are going to get there is all up to you! My brother, Tate, is a freshman this year and has some really big plans for his years to come in the FFA. As much as I hope that I was able to pass on some motivation to him, we must always remember that Tate is the only one who can choose where he is going and how he is going to get there. He doesn't have to do everything that his brother did, because Tate is not me. Whatever he accomplishes, I will be proud of him!

So it is now Tate's turn. It is now your turn to look for how you're going to reach your destination, and I don't care what mode of transportation you use. I can't tell you the answers, but what I can tell you is that once you've chosen that vehicle you will start to build a stronger you. When you build a strong you it gives you something to hold up that FFA jacket. And that's what's going to make that FFA jacket look sharp. And that's how to get there from here.







# “Heroes . . . when the Ordinary become Extraordinary”

Holly Bentley  
National FFA Secretary  
Sabina, Ohio



It was the glimmer, glory, shimmer and shine that left a wide-eyed little girl sitting on the edge of her bleacher seat during half-time of the East Clinton High School Football game. There she was, the center of attention. Her uniform glittered and sparkled under the lights, especially when she lit the fire baton.

*The metal stick with fiery ends would seem to fly through the night, twisting and turning. She would toss it in the air, catch it behind her back, and do all kinds of daredevil acts. To a big-eyed eight year old who needed a hero, she and her fire batons were larger than life.*

I needed a hero and she was larger than life.

While many eight-year-olds were making Superman, Wonder Woman or the Incredible Hulk their heroes, I decided the person I wanted to look up to, the person I found worthy of being called my hero had the title of . . . feature baton twirler of the East Clinton High School band. Now, that may not seem like a very thrilling title to many, okay, most of you, especially when compared to the Incredible Hulk. But to an aspiring baton twirler, Gina Flint could have walked on water. It was the glory, glimmer, shimmer, and shine that she had out on the field that made an eight-year-old little girl sit on the edge of a cold bleacher every fall Friday night during half-time of the football game

just to catch a glimpse of her and her fire baton.

It was her ability to stand out on a football field and make a fire stick twirl that drew me to Gina, but later she taught me being a hero is about much more than being in the limelight. She taught me that a hero did not have to leap over buildings, climb mountains, be famous or even twirl a fire baton. She taught me a hero was simply an ordinary person who became extraordinary in the eyes of another.

I was an aspiring third-grade baton twirler and because of that, I took baton lessons every Wednesday right after school. One Wednesday, I could hardly wait for school to be over because it was the day when I was going to learn to do a toss, turn-around catch. This meant I would throw the baton in the air, turn around and catch it. I had the toss,



and the turn-around, but I just couldn't quite get the catch part. On that particular Wednesday I was going to learn to catch the turn-around catch. The bell finally rang. I grabbed my things and went running outside of the school, but my teacher was not there. I decided she would be there in a few minutes so I began to practice while I waited.

After a couple of hard hits on the head, I sat down leaning on the bike rack and began to lose hope that my teacher would ever show up or that I would ever do a toss, turn-around catch.

It was about that time when Gina Flint, the feature baton twirler, came walking by with a group of her friends. There I was, a dorky little elementary student holding my baton with tears in my eyes. There she was a cool high school student hanging out with her even cooler friends. And as they were walking by, she stopped. She stopped to talk to me. After finding out what my problem was, she left her friends and even though she was not my teacher she spent the next hour teaching me to do toss turn-around catches.

Now, it may have been her fire batons that caught my eye, but it was the time she spent with me that day that made her my true hero. No, she did not leap over buildings, move mountains, become famous or even twirl her fire batons. She did something much greater. She took time for an elementary kid she did not even know. She shared some of what she had been given, she shared some of her talents with me. And by simply stopping to take time for another, Gina Flint, an ordinary high school student became extraordinary in my eyes.

Time. It's such a simple thing, we sometimes overlook it. It's such a powerful thing that we cannot forget to share it. We must take time for other people. Now, I know what you may be thinking, "I have classes to study for, career development events to prepare for, basketball, football, or baseball teams that I need to practice

for. I do not have time to get all of my things done, let alone to stop and help others."

It literally takes only a minute. It would only take a moment of your time to give a compliment, to say "hi" to that person who sits all by herself in the cafeteria or to speak to the person who, well, most people would not even talk to. It only takes 10 minutes to talk with or listen to the stories of an elderly person. It takes five minutes to play a game with your little brother or sister or that elementary student who looks up to you with those same big eyes through which I looked up to Gina. It only takes a kind act and a minute to become extraordinary in another person's eyes.

It only took a minute for Gina to stop and talk to me, and only a few more minutes to teach me to do a toss, turn-around catch. But the time she spent with me was much more powerful than that. You see, from that day forward, I knew I wanted to be just like Gina Flint. Whenever I would come to a baton move that seemed too hard to do or whenever I just seemed too busy to practice, I would think of that Wednesday afternoon with Gina. With those thoughts, I would be motivated to keep on going.

That is all it took until I reached eighth grade. You see, at the end of my eighth grade year, just as each of you did, I had to make one of the biggest decisions I had ever made. I had to schedule my classes for high school. I was pretty excited because after eight years of taking baton lessons, I was finally going to sign up for band and I would finally have the



chance to walk in Gina Flint's footsteps as the feature baton twirler.

Now at my school they have all of the eighth graders file into the cafeteria and sit scrunched in the elementary lunch tables where we were to fill out our schedules. When we are finished, we simply turn in the schedule and return to class. I was just about to finish my schedule when one of my friends looked over and said, "Holly, you're not really going to sign up for band, are you?"

I said, "Yeah, I'm planning on it."

And she said, "but Holly, don't you realize that band is just not the thing to be in at East Clinton High School? You would be a band geek. Do you really want to go into high school as a geek? You're going to ruin your reputation. We just don't know if we will be able to hang out with you if you are in band."

With that, she and my other friends turned in their schedules and left me sitting all alone at that elementary lunch table. They left me to make one of the biggest decisions I ever had to make. You know, I have been faced with many situations where I probably have not made the best choices, just ask my parents. But looking back to that day, I made one of my very best decisions. I decided that I had to do what was right for me, rather than what was popular. I made a decision to take a risk and sign up for band, because I knew that was best for me.

It is so easy to get pulled into a group where you begin to ask the questions—"How can you be part of the group? How can you be just like them? How can I fit in?" We get so wrapped up in following the crowd, we stop doing things that are right for us. We stop following our own dreams and we begin to settle for much less than we deserve.

A true hero does not rely on popularity. A true hero takes the risk to do what is right for him or her. It may not be the most popular thing

to put on these blue and gold jackets in your school. You may have had to take a risk to get involved and come here to Kansas City, and for that I congratulate you. Because what sets each of us apart, what make us unique, what makes us different,

**"It only takes a kind act and a minute to become extraordinary in another person's eyes."**

what makes us extraordinary in the eyes of another, is the ability to take a risk. We shouldn't worry about what others think, but instead take a risk to find what is right for us and chase our own dreams. That's what it means to be a true hero.

If there is one thing that I have learned through all of my travels this year, it is that everyone does need heroes. Elementary students,

teachers, parents, business people, your friends, even national officers need heroes.

We commonly look for these heroes on television, in the news, or in famous individuals. In my travels this year, I have seen many extraordinary heroes. No, I did not see them on TV, but I did see them when I was climbing a mountain in Alaska, when I was sitting at a state convention in Illinois, when I was playing on barn swings in Missouri, and when I was walking across a college campus in New Jersey. In fact during every one of my trips I have met people who are already true heroes, they just may not realize it. To this very day, Gina Flint does not know she is my hero. She has no idea the impact she made in my life the day she taught me to do a toss, turn-around catch.

It does not matter what state you live in, what your age is, what your talents, skills or looks are. What matters is that somewhere there is a third grader with big eyes staring up

at you. Whether you know it or not—or whether you will ever know it—you may be their hero.

The questions you need to answer now are, "Will you decide to step up and be that true hero? Will you take time to share your talents with others? Will you decide to be that ordinary person who becomes extraordinary in the eyes of another? Will you choose to be a true hero?"

Just as the flame burns steadily on a fire baton, true heroes have a flame that burns within their life. You must make the decision to light that fire within you, to light the fire that gives you the strength to chase after your dreams and do what is right for you. Make the decision to not only let the fire burn but to share sparks with others. When you do that, you will be amazed at how many fires you will light in other lives.

FFA members, you have what it takes. Don't be ordinary, be extraordinary. Be a true hero.



## The Real Face in the Crowd

**Brad Montgomery**  
*National FFA Vice President—Central Region*  
**McDonald, Kansas**



We all stand out in a crowd in life, a crowd in which there are many faces—all unique but with two distinct types of faces: those that shine and those that don't. To shine is to stand out in a crowd so that others can see your light; to have a power and will so great that it creates a powerful distinction above all other distractions. With a shine, you have a power to be real, not just another face in the crowd.

Super-heroes can stand out no matter where they are. When I was four, I watched super-hero cartoons

at my grandma's house. That is where I was first introduced to the Green Lantern, an early 80s super hero who wore a very powerful ring. This ring could perform a number of tasks, but its most powerful feature was to shoot a green power beam and destroy all enemies of truth and justice. The real catch was that only the Green Lantern's will and power from within enabled him to shoot the beam. Well, I thought that if I willed hard enough, I could be just like Green Lantern and shoot a power beam out of my ring—so, I strained very hard and squinted my

eyes to try to make my official toy Green Lantern Ring shoot this power beam. I can remember going to church one Sunday actually thinking that I was the Green Lantern, only to be given a strange look from my Sunday School teacher when I simulated a strained look to get my power beam to shoot. In the end, I only had the chance to look like the Green Lantern when Mom bought my brothers and me Under-Roos. We would conquer the universe and stand above all others there on our farm, in our blue, red and green skivvies. I soon grew out of the





Green Lantern stage, not by choice, but because the Underoos wouldn't fit anymore.

When I was in third grade, I wanted to be just like the big guys in sixth grade who always had the ball thrown to them during the recess football games. The big kids made it look so easy — all I had to do was run just like they did and stretch out my arms to catch the pass. What I didn't realize was how much practice and mental coordination it took to catch a pass on the run. After several attempts at catches, I would end up walking over to the swings where the other uncoordinated people in the football game were exiled. Hours later on the bus, I would be reminded over and over again how dumb I looked when I dropped the ball as it hit me square in the chest.

When I was a freshman, I started Algebra One. After I got my first test back, I really wanted to be like my friend David. He was a mathematically gifted person, who had a knack for the subject and had the desire to score a high grade. Thinking I could be just like him, I studied very little for our first test and found out that if I wanted to pass this course, I was going to have to put in a little more time and energy.

When I was 15, I again wanted to be an athlete. Many of my friends attended football and basketball training camps in the summer, spending many hours training and preparing to be better athletes. On the other hand, I was a mediocre ball player, and I spent most of my time playing trombone — and I went to

band camp to learn how to play the trombone better.

No matter how hard I tried to be like other people and do what I thought would make my face fit in, I found out that my face was just a little bit

"different." When I endeavored to be the person that I thought I should be and the person I thought other people expected me to be, it always seemed like it wasn't good enough. The approval I sought from taking on those roles was never there. Though amusing, it looked like silly imitation when I tried to make my face fit into these characters. My face just didn't fit in the picture without looking ridiculous.

In life, it looks just as ridiculous when we try to be somebody we are not. I thought all of these character's powers came from an object or an action that they performed, a power that could be easily replicated. I reasoned that if I had a Green Lantern ring, I could shoot a green power beam out of it to destroy my brothers and capture the last cookie in the cookie jar. It's not the ring, though, that makes the real power — it's the Green Lantern's *mental* power and will that causes him to shoot a power beam. It's not going through the motions of catching a football that makes a person a real receiver, it's the conscious effort and desire to catch it time after time to score for the team. It's not just marking up your paper and turning in your test to score the real A, it's making the conscious, full-fledged effort to study and prepare your mind. Performing activities and simulating personalities without desire will not make us real. There is

a power and will that each of us have to bring out our own talents and abilities — our own personalities. That power and only that power will make our faces not just a part of a facade that we see so often, but the real thing, which is being ourselves. The power we have to truly be ourselves is the power of Real. The power of being real is that we bring out our own passions — the purposes and actions that make us who we truly are, the things that give us a total, complete and lasting happiness in life, not just a temporary fix.

There are two real rules to a having a real face in the crowd. One, accept your differences and show them everyday, which leads to rule number two, you will be the difference for others. We don't have a choice of what our faces looks like, but we

decide where our faces fit in the crowd. We don't have to be just another face in the crowd — we can be the real face in the crowd.

Why would we not choose to accept a power that gives us an incredible amount of self-confidence, happiness, and will

allow people to never forget us? Simply because "being different" can be scary. Who makes this power, this factor that can create so much terror for us? The crowd does! WE DO! We discover at a very young age that to alter our behavior from our peers leads to labels such as "weird," "goofy," and, my favorite, "freak." Like many of you, I wore my new pair of cowboy boots my very first day of school, in kindergarten. I was very proud of these boots, and I couldn't wait to show them off to all of the other kids, until I walked in the room, sat down in my little desk, and saw that every other kid wore brand new sneakers. I couldn't shake the feeling of inferiority as the

kids shot stares toward my footwear. Even at a tender age of five, I learned what it took to avoid the teasing, the stares, the laughing, and the abuse. I wore what the crowd did, I listened to the same music as the crowd, and I tried to emulate the behavior of my peer group, to fit in, to make them like me, even if it meant compromising a portion of who I was. Why?

Because everyone wants to do the "cool" thing — nobody wants to voluntarily attract wild stares and laughter! It was because of this reason in fifth grade, I chose to play the trombone. Everyone else in my class had chosen an instrument, and I didn't want to stand out and be the only one not in band. I loved trombone from the start. It seemed like I had a knack for it, even after a few weeks of playing for two hours a day. It was a past time I put my heart and soul into, something that I had the desire and power to do.

In sixth grade, a lot of my friends quit playing an instrument all together. Even more dropped out of band in seventh grade. By the time eighth grade had arrived, there were only a few people in my class still in band. The same people whom I had followed in joining band would ask me why I was still in such a useless class! I continued with it because it was a passion — I am convinced I had a God-given power to play trombone. I went to a band camp the summer before my freshman year to be a better musician. Let me tell you, band camp was not considered a cool thing to do, either then or now. When I returned from camp, pumped up about all of the things I learned, I found that people didn't see the value in playing trombone that I did. I started high school that fall and told my friends and acquaintances that I had gone to band camp, and they laughed at me! All I wanted was to be like everyone else — I didn't want to be laughed at and made fun of!

The first rule of a real face means having the power and will to do what you do best, despite what other

“One, accept your differences and show them everyday, which leads to rule number two, you will be the difference for others.”



people think. The fact that I was the best trombone player at Cheylin High School — in fact, the only trombone player — should have made me proud and confident. Instead, I felt strange, goofy, and weird, as the same feelings I received in kindergarten resumed.

As a result, I focused more on the talents of the people around me than on my own skills, and I saw talents that I didn't have — talents that people valued, like athletics. Never mind the music, I wanted to be somebody who was popular and valued by everyone. More than once I heard the saying, "Real men play football!" The more and more I dwelled on the fact that I did not have the talents and skills my friends did, the more depressed I became. The same crowd that I had followed into band had left me there.

Then finally, I realized that the crowd of people around me, as a whole, would probably never value playing trombone more than they would playing a sport. It hit me, that the crowd around me does not know and will not know what truly makes me happy, what makes me, ME. I loved playing trombone! Nobody could take this passion away.

I might not have caught every football thrown to me, but I could catch a tune and re-create it through my trombone. I might have missed a number of tackles on the field, but I never missed a chance to practice the trombone. I might not have hit a defender hard and trotted into the end zone with ease, but you better believe I could hit a high "F" above the scale with ease. If we don't accept those things that make us different from the rest of the crowd, we will become the crowd — the people who may be "cool" and temporarily happy, who might fit in for the moment, but won't know the power of real. Real men might play football, but real people accept the things that make them different, despite what everyone else thinks or says, the key to true happiness and success.

You see, I couldn't be the shining athlete, the brightest student, or, by far, the super hero Green Lantern. I realize this though: accepting my differences and showing my differences have given me more than I could have ever imagined, even if people made fun of me. I wasn't the Green Lantern, but the difference is I can now laugh with my brothers at the memories we had running around the house in our skivvies! I didn't get many passes thrown to me on the playground, but the difference is that it forced me to make new friends. I have never made an A in a math class to date, but this challenge has made me study more, a difference that has made me a better student. I never participated in football camp, but a passion for music that I can carry with me for the rest of my life is the difference. You know what your differences are — they are the things that the crowd pressures you against, but in your heart, you know it is what makes you ultimately happy, the power that makes you real. The crowd will always be filled with two kinds of faces: faces wanting to fit in and be "cool," and real faces. Choose to accept the real face, the face that stands out in a crowd.

The unique talents and strengths that we possess — makes us *our* best and not necessarily the best in the crowd. Embracing this attitude causes a change in our lives. No longer are we controlled by what other people think, no longer are our decisions based on what will help us "fit in" with the "in" crowd. The pressure is relieved of living up to other people's false expectations of us.

What a crowd-splitting power! The power to be ourselves and not worry about what other people think!! It is a power so great that people can't help but take notice of you. The change that will take place will show — the crowd will take notice of you, because you will be happy with yourself, and you won't listen to their laughter or sordid gossip! The second real rule of a real Face is just that: show your

differences, and you will be the difference people won't forget.

Real leaders are those who have accepted and displayed their differences, but more importantly, have used them for the service of making people feel like they are accepted. Real leaders show other people that it's okay to be different, and instill a tremendous confidence with those actions. Take this story of a student I knew very well, for example.

This student was like many students his age, looking for a place to belong. He was unsure of himself and hadn't realized where he fit in with the crowd, because he was always trying to be like the crowd. Essentially, the student was like me, a musician who was trying to be the



world's greatest athlete. His peers would call him "weird" frequently, because he had a different sense of humor. He would constantly quote *Saturday Night Live* lines. The student talked way too much, and had a history of getting into trouble in class because he was somewhat of a smart aleck to teachers, all for the sake of trying to make people laugh.

When he was a freshman, he enrolled in Agriculture I and changed his life forever. He had an FFA advisor much like your FFA advisor. He did all of the normal

advisor stuff: joked around, ate doughnuts, and coached contest teams, but he definitely stood out in the crowd. This guy has been known to scrimmage high school football players with no pads, blare rap music with a carload of livestock judges, and headbang to Metallica with his shirt off in sub-zero weather. This advisor has taught at his school for almost 10 years, and students know him for his ability to relate to everyone and make them feel like they belong and they are accepted.

The advisor wasn't afraid to show his students who he really was. This advisor, on first impression, was like any other teacher, but as the freshman found out on subsequent FFA trips, he was so easy to get to know because he was so honest when he talked. The things that Mr. Keltz did everyday to encourage me to bring out my strengths and talents are the same things that you can do: model your differences for all to see. Take time to notice the uniqueness in the crowd around you and give words of encouragement everyday to others. One of my favorite verses in the Bible says, "Therefore, let your light shine among all men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father in heaven."

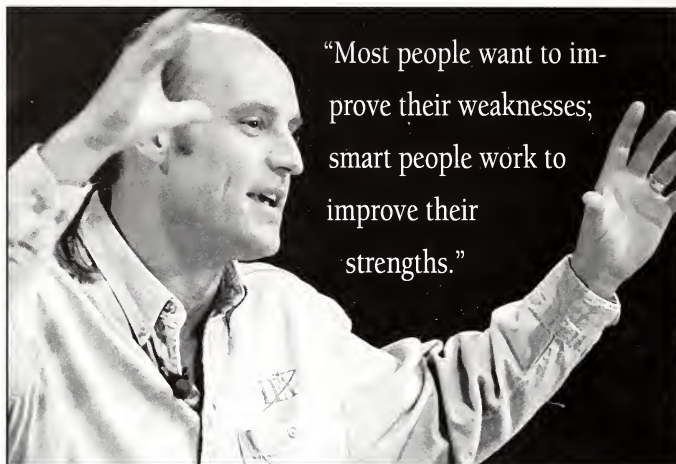
It doesn't take a super hero to stand out in a crowd. All it takes is accepting who you are and showing those inherent differences. You don't have to be a football player to make a lasting difference in a person's life. Just be yourself, and not only see, but tell people what their best is. You have the power to be real and the power of real is the power of happiness. The crowd is getting bigger, but your face will always be real. The time is now, the crowd is here, IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO SHINE!!



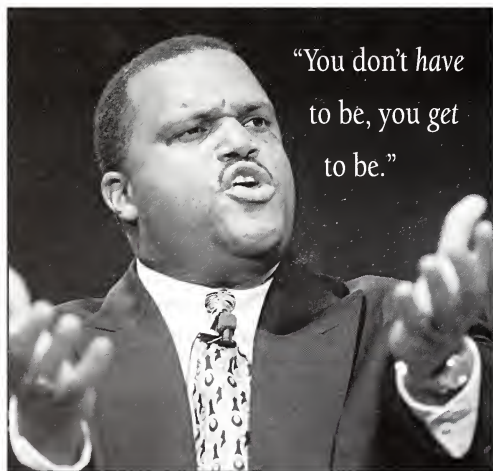


# Building The Foundation

Ted Waitt, entrepreneur, chairman and CEO of South Dakota-based computer company Gateway 2000, brought a unique yet casual message to FFA members. While telling his story about starting his business, he reflected upon FFA's motto and how it relates to his own philosophy of life: dream big, do your best and have fun doing whatever you do.



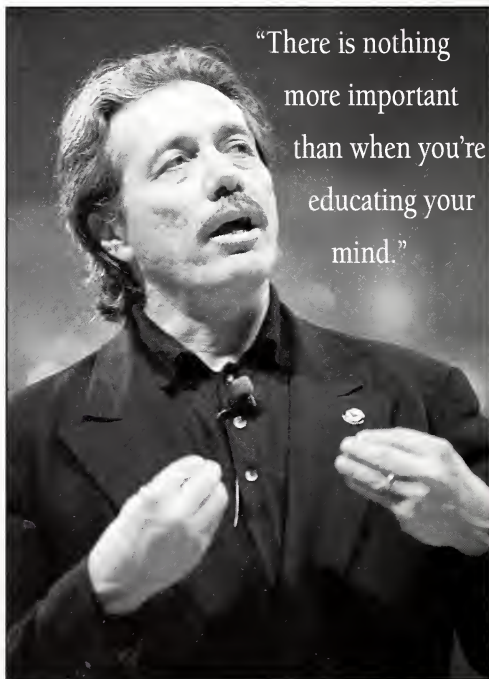
"Most people want to improve their weaknesses; smart people work to improve their strengths."



"You don't have to be, you get to be."

Motivational speaker Roy Archer stirred the audience during the first general session as the convention's kickoff speaker. His words of wisdom inspired members to strive for only the best.

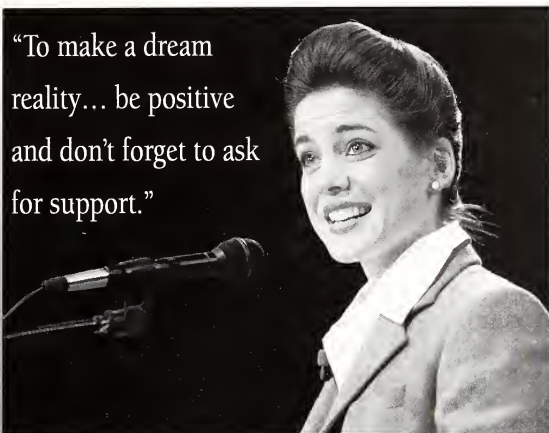
A touch of humanity and multicultural awareness was brought to the audience by Emmy-award-winning actor Edward James Olmos. Olmos is best known as Lt. Castillo on *Miami Vice* and as Jaime Escalante from the movie *Stand and Deliver*.



"There is nothing more important than when you're educating your mind."

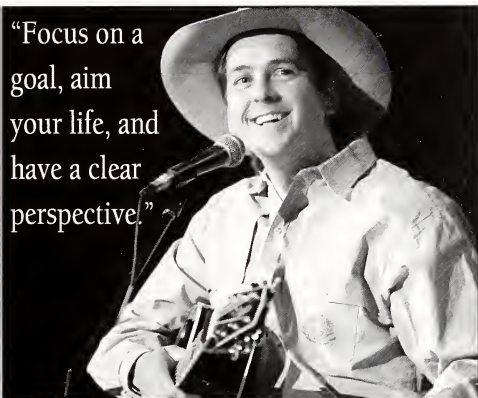


"To make a dream  
reality... be positive  
and don't forget to ask  
for support."



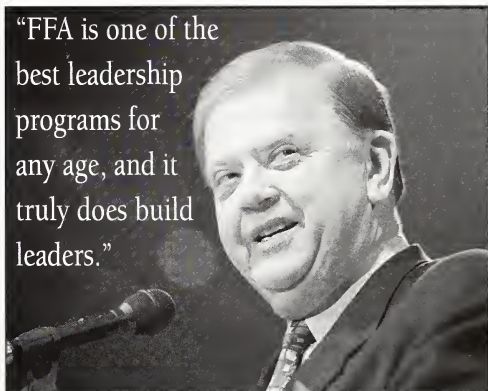
*Former Miss America-turned-motivational speaker Heather Whitestone-McCallum addressed Saturday morning's crowd about pursuing goals in spite of limitations. As the first hearing-impaired Miss America, she has made several appearances at national conventions.*

"Focus on a  
goal, aim  
your life, and  
have a clear  
perspective."



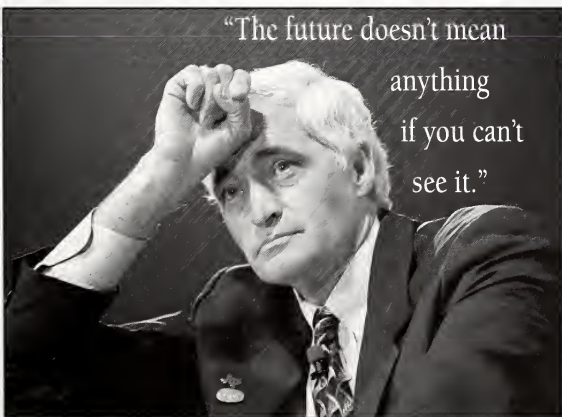
*Country music artist Ty England brings greetings on behalf of the National FFA Alumni association. He sways the audience with words and song, and tickles the hearts of many by signing autographs and spending time with FFA members during the convention.*

"FFA is one of the  
best leadership  
programs for  
any age, and it  
truly does build  
leaders."



*Orion Samuelson, a long-time supporter of FFA programs, greeted the convention attendees Friday afternoon. Samuelson also covered the convention for CHANNEL EARTH, and interviewed many award winners.*

"The future doesn't mean  
anything  
if you can't  
see it."



*Agricultural futurist Dr. Lowell Catlett intrigued audience members Friday afternoon with his forecast for the future. Among his predictions: by the year 2005, women will rule the world and 74 of 114 known cancers will be cured. Catlett's predictions are based on analysis of trends and interpretation of statistics.*





# "When You're Out of Worms"

Ray Starling  
National FFA Vice President—Eastern Region  
Autryville, N.C.



I remember sitting right here in this section of this auditorium with the other members of the Midway FFA Chapter at my first national convention and the feeling I had the first time I saw over 10,000 blue and gold jackets around me. I felt chills the first time I was a part of the chanting of the letters "F-F-A, F-F-A," and I remember how fun it was to be a part of the wave that circled the auditorium.

I remember watching the tiny people on stage and hearing the speeches given and the awards presented. I remember being bored and squishing the speakers on stage with my thumb and forefinger. I remember thinking "How could I stand on this very stage and do the things I saw?" I wondered if it would ever be possible.



Years later I would sit in this section of the convention floor, waiting for the announcement of the new national officer team. My palms were sweaty and my heart was

pounding so fast that I could hear it over the speaker. Time stood still as slowly the names of the national officers were called and nobody heard my name...nobody, including me.

At first I held up pretty well, but within a few minutes, several of my best friends; Josh, Shane, George and Matt; came over to console me and reality began to set in. I did not hear my name called. The session adjourned and I finally found my mother and brother, and to my surprise, I wasn't the only one crying. My mom, of course had tears streaking down her face, but as I approached my 250-pound brother, I realized that he, too, was crying. As tears continued to fall from my face, I found myself in a big bear hug, embraced by my brother. Without a

word said, I had experienced one of the greatest events of my life. The tears continued to fall, but I was at the height of contentment. Even though my name wasn't called on

stage that day, the love my family and friends shared with me will never be forgotten. To me, it was worth more than any blessing I may have gotten from hearing my name up on stage. You see, even though I didn't get elected to national FFA office two years ago, I did get the blessing of realizing the love and support my family and friends were so eager to provide.

Life is full of blessings that come when things aren't going as we planned or as we wished. The problem is that too often in life we are only concerned with what we want, when we want it, and how quickly we can get it. We don't take time to realize that there is a plan and that sometimes we have to listen very carefully to hear our names called.

Hugging my brother and momma and sharing our pain together taught me that even tough times could provide blessings. By the same token, so did fishing down at my papa's pond on Sunday afternoons with my daddy and brothers.

Steve, Willi, and I would fish for hours, while daddy sat on the bucket that was supposed to hold the many "big ones" we hoped to catch. I often remember daddy telling me that I couldn't catch anything without bait, or while my hook was out of the water. Sometimes my line became caught on a stump or root in the pond, and sometimes the trees up above would get in my way as I tried to set a new record in how far I could cast my line. I learned that extra weight always made it go farther - even

without the worm! Many times I would do a poor job putting the worm on the hook, and after a few minutes, it would fall off, or a small fish would take it off of the hook.

Regardless of whether we caught a lot or not a single fish, the day passed by rather quickly. I recall how we felt as the sun began to set, the air began to cool, and the reflection off the pond grew dim. We began to run out of worms and we knew that for another week, our fishing experience had drawn to a close. Without worms, we couldn't fish, even if we were having good luck, or thought that just a few more minutes might bring in the big one. Finally, daddy would rise from his seated position on the bucket and prepare to go. Even though we all dreaded having to head back up the hill toward home, we knew granny and papa's house waited up top for us. Inside, we knew there was something that would make the conclusion of our trip worthwhile.

Once the poles were up and our hands were clean, we would run inside to the small white cabinet, where papa and granny always had plenty of Little Debbie Oatmeal Creme Pies waiting for us to raid. Sometimes I would eat two, three, and one Sunday, even four! Even though I dreaded the fact that another Sunday had passed away and our fishing was over with, I enjoyed my time up at the house eating Little Debbies and listening to stories told by my dad and grandparents.



It has been years since my brothers and I went fishing with my dad. Time somehow has slipped away and I can no longer run in to eat Little Debbie's, even though now I believe I could eat more than four! PaPa has gone on to be with the Lord that he taught me to sing about, granny is now in a nursing home, and Sundays are tied up with studying, visiting, practice of some sorts and catching up on sleep. Even though I'll never be able to recreate those memories of fishing and running out of worms, the lesson I learned from those experience lives on in my heart. Even though we were out of worms, I had been given one of life's greatest blessings - eating Little Debbie's and talking with my grandparents and family.

“The greatest blessings of life often come when unexpected, and are often the greatest we've ever had.”

Two years ago, when I wasn't elected to national office, the same thing happened again. Even though I didn't get the blessing I had prayed and waited for, I was blessed with an outpouring of love from my friends and family. If I had been elected, I wouldn't have had the chance to work with Shane and Daniel at FFA camp, or serve as a counselor at church camp, or have learned how to clog, play the piano at Mr. Keel's retirement dinner, or meet Tina, the love of my life.

I've learned that the rainbow comes after the rain. The game comes after hard days of practice; and sometimes practice can be more fun than the game. You can only be clean if you're willing to take a shower. Though your car may break

down on the way to the convention in Vermont, someone else may stop and pick you up. Although you miss home, the members at Alumni camp in Oklahoma can be a lot of fun. Things may not go according to schedule, but then all of a sudden you find yourself up on a mountain in Alaska with friends from Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Alaska, Nevada and California. The commute from Columbia, Mo., to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, is a long and dreadful one, but then you find yourself talking to Mr. Sunny Deke and having a ball. Maybe your luggage doesn't show up in New Mexico, but you find yourself buying new underwear with people that over just a few days will become the best friends you could ask for. Maybe you miss your family and best friend, but Ms. Story keeps you laughing with stories of biting sows. I've learned this year that time with loved ones should be cherished and never taken for granted; a lesson I may not have taken so seriously had I been at home all the time.

The greatest blessings of life often come when unexpected, and are often the greatest we've ever had. No, my name wasn't called that day to be a national officer, but it was called. I just had to learn to be quiet long enough to hear it. I had to learn again two years ago, just like I had as a child, that some of life's greatest blessings come when you're out of worms.

*Every Sunday me and dad went fishing,  
in the late part of the day  
We were always after the big one,  
but the little ones got in the way.  
We would fish until our worms ran out  
and the day would soon pass by  
Then daddy would take me up to grandpa's  
where I'd get a Little Debbie  
Creme Pie.*

*Life's blessings aren't always  
where we expect them to be,  
When things don't go so well  
that's where you learn so easily.*

*We can miss the beauty of the flowers,  
'cause we don't look past the rain,  
Remember to look up, keep going my friend,  
even when life is a pain,  
We don't always know what's best,  
we should live one day at a time...  
Some of life's greatest blessings come  
when you're out of...worms.*

*The lessons I learned many years ago  
are also true today  
Sometimes you may not understand,  
just let God lead the way  
If you find yourself in a jam  
sometimes,  
wondering what to do  
Just hold on for a while, my friend,  
you'll get a blessing when you make it  
through.*

I will always remember being a national officer for many reasons. The experiences were great and I learned many things about geography, money management, travel, education, agriculture and the list goes on and on. I think, though, that I learned the most about people. I learned that they come in all sizes, shapes, and colors, and all ask for a Coke a different way. As time passes by, I'm sure I'll forget the names of some of the towns I've been in, or some of the people I only briefly met, but I'll always remember this

one thing: It's easy to drop your head when times are tough and it's O.K. to admit your fears to others, but with faith and patience, blessings are just like the people I met. They come in all shapes and sizes, in all types of situations, at different times and in different places.

It's hard for me to believe that something I learned as a child can be so useful still today. When you leave this convention, it will be easy to be fired up for a while and then to lose your passion. It would be easy for you to hang your head low and want to quit sometimes, but remember that as you grow and as you learn, to look for life's little blessings. Know that some of life's greatest blessings, come...when you're out of worms.







# Superman, Blue Corduroy, and Things Left Unsaid

Charlie Jones

National FFA Vice President—Southern Region  
Billingsley, Ala.



Billingsley, Ala., small town USA, population 110, including me, my family, one school, and nine churches. There wasn't much to do back there but we always found some way to have fun. Most of the time it involved having a great imagination. Growing up miles from your nearest friend, many a day was spent lost in your own little world. For as long as I can remember, I dreamed and envisioned myself as one single person. That person grew up just like I did. He grew up in a small town with parents that loved him and allowed him to grow as an individual. You see this small town boy would grow up to fight for truth, justice, and the American way. The small town boy I wanted to be like was none other than Clark Kent, or as he is more widely known, Superman.

When I was a little kid I would wake up in the morning run downstairs and put on the most special gift my mom ever gave me - my very own Superman cape. My mom made me this cape because up until that point I had been going everywhere, and I do mean everywhere, wearing a towel around my neck. I guess it was easier to explain a red cape than a brown towel. I wanted to be faster than a speeding bullet, more powerful than a locomotive, and able to leap tall buildings in a single bound. I believed that Superman would always protect me no matter what happened.

One day I was climbing a tree in my backyard. Higher and higher I climbed until I could go no further. What happened next deals with weight distribution which at the time I knew nothing about, but in which I was soon to receive a crash course.

Crash is the key word here. On my way to the ground, I managed to catch the very last branch and hold on with all my might. I knew if I held on long enough that my hero would come save me. I dangled there for a long time until my arms gave out and I crashed to the ground. I laid there and cried my eyes out, not because I was hurting, but because my hero had let me down. Superman did not save me. I felt like he was to blame for my getting hurt. As life went on, my boyhood hero faded, as all childhood memories do. Somewhere between being a child and a young man I lost the ability to fly, to stop bullets, and outrun trains.

***“You can choose to blame all the people or objects you want for your failures, but the true test of freedom is up to you.”***

Later in life I had a new cape. A cape that allowed me accomplish many things in life. That cape was my FFA jacket. This jacket became my new hero, it was the one thing that gave me opportunities to succeed in life. That jacket took me through life and led me to an opportunity to fulfill a dream. That dream was to serve this organization as a national officer. I went in for the interviews to select the 1995 candidate to represent Alabama at national convention. In that interview I was not selected to

represent my state. I spent the next several days thinking about my failure. There was only one thing to blame for my failure and that was my jacket. I felt like my jacket had failed me. I felt like everything going wrong in my life could be blamed on my jacket. Even though I knew that the committee picked the far better and more prepared candidate to represent our state, I felt as if my jacket would save me just because I put it on. Somehow it would magically transform me into what I wanted to be. That it would protect me from failure, but it didn't.

These were two separate experiences in my life when I blamed failure on someone or something else. I finally reached a point in my life when I realized one of the greatest truths of mankind. You cannot sit back in life and expect someone or something to be there to save you at every turn. The reason I laid on the ground and cried after falling from the tree was not because Superman let me down, it was because I had made a mistake and climbed too high. The reason I was not selected to represent my state was not because my jacket had let me down, it was because the person inside of it had not prepared himself well enough. Superman was not going to save me and neither was my FFA jacket. I placed the blame on someone else because I did not want to take responsibility for my actions. I blamed my failures on something else, because I did not realize it was not the jacket, it's what's inside the jacket that counts.

When we realize that what is inside matters most, that is when we begin to grow, that is when we begin to achieve premier leadership,

personal growth, and career success in our lives.

We are blessed to live in the greatest country in the world. For 221 years this country has stood as a beacon to the world as a shining light of hope and opportunity. You know why people all over this world would love to be here? It is not the fancy cars, the nice clothes or the chance to hang out at the local mall. The one thing that makes us so great is to have freedom. Freedom is something we so often take for granted.

We are all granted inalienable rights by the constitution. The freedom of speech, the freedom of religion, and the freedom to assemble. There is one other important freedom. It is one that is not included in the Bill of Rights. That is the freedom...the freedom to fail. The single most important freedom we possess as Americans is the freedom to fail. In America I can try something, fail at it and if I choose I can try it again. How many wonderful events, products, or inventions would have been lost if we were not allowed to try again? Like all freedoms, we must exercise that right. If we do not it stands for absolutely nothing. I truly believe that the freedom to fail is the most un-exercised freedom we have.

We let one thing stop us from experiencing that freedom, and that is fear! My dad always told me that in life there will be times you will have to try a second, third, and even a fourth time and most times these efforts will prove to be the most rewarding. Fear. We begin to do just what I did when I blamed Superman and my FFA jacket. We



blame someone else or something else for our failures. We convince ourselves, "Hey I have failed once and I do not want to do that again." So to avoid the pain and embarrassment of failure we never try. The great things you could have accomplished are gone and lost forever.

When I go home I always reflect on life. I see my best friends Alan, Darren, Gary, and the rest of the gang from Auburn. Then there are Mike and Denise Reeser from Minnesota, who have been my biggest supporters. I think of all the great friends I have made over the year and the faces that I will forever remember. I always try to find time to watch my favorite movie, *Braveheart*. Now you see, while I sit there and watch this movie my mind begins to wonder about the freedoms we have and how we let fear stand in the way of success. How we let fear creep into our lives and overpower us. In the movie the forces of Scotland are gathered on a battlefield ready to wage war on the English. As the scene progresses, the fear of failing begins to creep in and the men begin to doubt themselves. They at first refuse to try, and their one chance at freedom is about to die.

"You have come here as free men, and free men you are!" You have come to this convention hall today as free individuals. I ask you one question; what will you do without freedom? The individuals in the movie wanted to run and live. If you

run from your fears you will live as well. The men may have wanted to run, but they soon realized that they must stand and fight for their freedom. When we are willing to lay it all on the line, risk it all for just one chance to make something out of ourselves, to be something better, that is when we truly live. Just as William Wallace says in *Braveheart*, "Every man dies, not every man truly lives!"

I think that the saddest state for a human being is to look back on your life with regret. Many years from now, when darkness begins to creep in and the sun is setting on your life for the very last time, when nothing is left but you and your memories, what will you do? Will you look back over your life and say, "I gave it everything I could and I did not let fear stop me?" Or will you look back and have this phrase on your lips, "If I could just go back and not let the

fear stop me. If I could go back and not place blame for my failures on someone else. If I had pulled myself up and given it one more shot, God only knows what I could have become."

FFA members, you have the choice. You can choose to blame all the people or objects you want for your failures, but the true test of freedom is up to you. Will you take that freedom to fail that we are given as Americans and use it to become everything that you ever wanted to be? Or will you continue to let fear cause you to blame others for failures? Will you let fear overwhelm you and cause you to not give it one more try? What will you be saying when you look back? My wish for you is that you look back over your life and are saying to yourself "No Fear, No Fear, NO FEAR!"







## "One of You"

Rachel Fehringer  
National FFA Vice President—Western Region  
Pectz, Colo.



Dear Rachel, Everything is great up here in Alaska. I was just slated chapter reporter! My first step toward becoming a state officer. I hope to do all I can to make my chapter the best it can be. See you in a couple of months at national convention. We're very excited.

Hi Rachel! I wanted to write and tell you that I received my chapter's Star Greenhand Award. Our chapter got a grant for a greenhouse, too.

Dear Rachel, I have some big news! Do you remember when you visited my school and I told you I was going to run for state officer? Well I did and I MADE IT!! It was the most awesome feeling. If I had to choose between \$100 million and being a state officer, I'd choose being an officer 100 million times!

Hi Rachel! Thank you so much for attending the South Dakota Leadership Camp. Everyone and everything there made me see how good I have it at this point in my life. On the back of your business card you wrote "I believe in you." Well, I believe in you too. Please write back soon. Sincerely, LeeAnn.

Throughout this year, many people have asked me, "Rachel, what's your favorite thing about being a national officer?" My response was always easy. "Meeting and getting to know each of you, the FFA members." But no one ever asked me what was the worst thing about being a national officer. Another easy answer: "leaving you, the members."

During the past 12 months I have jet-setted across the country, and often times I would stay in one location just long enough for me to make some really good friends, and then catch a plane to my next destination, only to start all over again. Often, my friends, we would leave each other with you saying, "I know you meet a lot of people out there, but please don't forget about me!" How could I forget dancing with one of you at state convention? How could I forget watching one of you leap for joy after being named the state creed speaking winner?

To those of you who have told me of your hopes of getting elected to chapter officer or attending college, I will never forget the impact you've had on my life every time you've smiled, laughed, screamed enthusiastically in this convention hall or simply picked up your pen to write me a letter. By meeting and knowing each of you, I believe in you for the individual that you are with special talents and abilities, unlike any other, who has confidence in yourself and your future.

“The best thing you have to offer this world is yourself. You don't have to copy anyone else.”

I have met a lot of FFA members this year. But of all the students I've met I never found two who talk alike, walk alike or act alike, though it's funny how we all seem to dress alike. One of you was an athlete, another a rodeo fanatic. One of you had a 4.0, another had bleached hair and an earring. One of you was from the city studying science, another wanted to go back to the family farm. From each of you I learned so many different things: how to pitch horseshoes or arrange a basket of flowers, how to maintain nutrient levels in a greenhouse water-line or how to drive a snow-mobile. Even more importantly, one of you taught me how important it is to keep trying if I didn't reach my goal the first time. Another taught me that there is great satisfaction in working hard. One of you showed me the rewards of taking risks.

One of you I met at camp. You walked with braces on your legs, and yet I watched you swim in a race against others who were physically much stronger than you, but your inner strength was truly inspiring to have even tried. One of you can't hear what I'm saying, but because of the special skills of another FFA member, you understand my every word.

FFA members, it's the differences you possess that will make you great. Because of the way you talk, think, act, ride a bike, or even sing, people will respect you for it, if you take the time not to act like everyone else, but instead be proud of being an individual.

Isn't it strange that even though most of us have 10 toes, two feet, two legs, two arms, two hands, 10 fingers, a neck, a head, two ears, two eyes, a mouth and a nose, others can simply look at you and know your name. You do not have to walk into a room and announce that you are Alice Miller or Antonio Stevens. Even though we're all basically the same in stature, people recognize you. They recognize you because you are unique. We do not need to color our hair or change the way we talk. We already are different. How you walk, talk, sing, laugh, shoot a basketball or write a poem is your personal trademark. It's your personal identity.

As I've traveled across the country this year, I saw too many of you who estimate your value as human beings by things that aren't true to the real person inside of each of you. Because of my observation, I have vowed to make it a rule in my life never to compliment people on the things that don't matter. I don't care what kind of car you drive, who your boyfriend is, or what that expensive label on your clothes says. I will tell you if I think you are a good driver, are intelligent, have a great personality, a beautiful smile or that you're very talented just by being you. Those are the things that impress me about people. If those people that you call friends, truly are your friends, those are the things that they like about you too!

So why do we always say things like, "I'm not as pretty as she is?" or "I'm not as smart as he is?" Why do



we say, "I'm not good enough to date him or win that award?" FFA members, we have to realize that we will never have the same interests and talents as our friends and neighbors, but the sooner we realize that we are better than just good enough, we are successful in being a person who is confident in ourselves, our goals and the world—our world around us.

Believe me, I know what a risk it is to be an individual. I was and still am one of you. I remember sitting right up there in the second level of this auditorium, looking down at the delegate floor. As a 16-year-old girl who had never been to national convention before, I wondered, "Why are those people jumping around being loud?" And then once the session began with the lasers lights, raging audience, and enthusiastic speakers. I was never the same again. Right here in this auditorium I realized my goals which would soon transform into my talents. One of which was to be

talent or desire to become an All-American or Olympic Player. Instead, I loved serving on my officer teams, public speaking, or judging, and deep down, it was always a goal that someday I would become something great like a state officer or a winner in my proficiency area. While my teammates never understood my passion for FFA, I found out later that it was O.K. Two years after I had graduated from high school, one of my teammates came up to me and said, "Rachel, I really admire you for the way you pushed yourself in high school. I know I didn't always understand you and why you liked all of those speeches or offices you ran for, but now that I've been in college, I understand what a great person you have become because you did some of those things." She and I loved playing basketball together, and we shared some great memories. Although we didn't fully appreciate each other until after we were apart, I never had the chance to tell her what a great athlete she was, and

We don't hear enough good things about ourselves in a day to believe that we really are good people. Throughout the year, hundreds of FFA members, one of you, would write to me. I suppose your reasons in writing were just to have a pen-pal or tell me thank you for coming to their school, but I took the opportunity to reply to each of you simply to say "I believe in you." Because you don't hear it enough.

There are five other very special people who have believed in me, and I'm proud to call my very best friends who come from very different places in this country. One of you was my jogging partner, another knew just what to say to get the smile back on my face on the occasions when I would lose it. One inspired the music in my heart, another gave me the encouragement I needed to perform the most important speech of my life, and one of you provided me a great example of what service really is. I will always be proud of how each of us could combine all of our different talents and backgrounds to become a true team. Thank you.

FFA members, there is only one of you. Figure out what you're good at. Build upon those strengths. One thing I love about FFA is the fact that there is really something in it for everyone whether you love music, livestock, or computers. Every time you enter a public speaking competition, pick up a welder, run for an office, or take a test you learn who you are, what you're good at, and added with an ounce of determination...how successful you can become.

Helen Keller said, "I am only one; but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something; I will not refuse to do the something I can do." She was a person with limitations, just like you and I, who wanted to be her best. The best thing you have to offer this world is yourself. You don't have to



copy anyone else. If you do, you're only second best. To achieve success is to be first, and that's being yourself.

To each of you sitting in this auditorium tonight. Ask yourself, "What are my strengths? What do I have to offer the people around me?" If you don't know, ask those who are with you right now. Build upon your strength and character. Someday, one of you will become a congressman, a successful businessperson, an Olympic athlete. One of you will be a movie star or sing in Nashville. Many of you are going to make terrific parents, teachers, and community members. All of you will become something great. And just to think, *one of you*, with your very own talents, personality and potential, took the time to write me just to say "hi."

Dear FFA member,  
Thank you for writing to me. You'll never know the impact you've had on my life. I hope you'll always keep challenging yourself to become a stronger person, but please never change anything about you that already makes you unique. You are very special just the way you are.

Please write back soon.  
I believe in you.  
Love, Rachel



standing on this stage someday. I realized that "I may be different from the kids back in school, but they have no idea what they're missing here." FFA was in my heart to stay

Many of my basketball teammates never understood why I wanted to miss practice just to go to an FFA meeting. I guess deep down I realized that I didn't possess the

how I appreciated the many late nights that she would stay after practice with me, just so I could have someone to shoot free-throws with.

That's why I believe so strongly in these letters. Everyday in school you and I are told how many questions we got wrong on our tests, we're reminded that we're late for class, again, or that we're dweebs or dorks.





# National FFA Band

*Sponsored by Ford Division—Ford Motor Company and the National FFA Foundation General Fund*

"Our job is to wake people up every morning," said Gene Englerth, now in his sixth year as National FFA Band director. Whether they played in the morning, noon or night, opening the National Agricultural Career Show or closing an evening session, the band stirred many convention-goers with its rousing renditions.

Described by Englerth as a "symphonic show band," the National FFA Band blended striking orchestrations with solo performances. A unique feature of the band was the introduction of each number by band members. The goal, said Englerth, was "to feature the kids as much as possible."

To commemorate the re-release of the Star Wars films, the band's repertoire featured the music of composer John Williams, including selections from "Jaws" and other film

scores. The highlight performance was a new symphonic piece, "The Light Eternal," in which the band was accompanied by the chorus and convention organist. It marked the first time the three musical elements of the convention performed together.

The band's 110 members were selected from 300 taped auditions submitted in July. Extensive rehearsal was essential to creating an ensemble from the diverse group of FFA members assembled from 30 states and Puerto Rico. "This group came together really well," said Joel LaJoye, of Hastings, Mich., the band's associate director.

Assisting Englerth and LaJoye were Carrie Beneker, also from Hastings, and Steve and Shawn Suddeth of Webberville, Mich.

**ARIZONA:** Julie Johnson, Payson; Christopher Mortensen, Duncan

**ARKANSAS:** Jessica Keahy, Lake Hamilton; James Nichols, Sheridan; Rick Seidenzahl, Oden

**CALIFORNIA:** Carolyn Hillman, McArthur; Richard Irwin, Westminster

**COLORADO:** Roy Gillham, Peetz; Richard Rumsey, Valley

**CONNECTICUT:** Kristen McAra, Woodbury; Sean Vegas, Carla Roselli; Jason Vegas, Lyman Hall

**GEORGIA:** Lori Johnson, Eastside Transitional

**ILLINOIS:** Tara Aumann, Nokomis; Kimberly Carton, Geneseo; Tracy Eltrevoog, Seneca; Celestina Smith, Chicago Ag Science

**IOWA:** Michael Anderson, South Hamilton; Patrick Colan, Crestwood; Jason Heeren, South Hamelton; Chris Lursen, Waverly-Shell-Reinbeck; Brian Seda, Gladbrook-Reinbeck; Tyler Smith, Humboldt; John Welander, Pomeroy-Palmer

**KANSAS:** Lance Albertson, Hiawatha; Brett Klingenberg, Peabody-Burns; Sue McCay, Williamsburg; Kelli Wischmeir, Jefferson West

**KENTUCKY:** John Cole, Fulton County; Jennifer O'Banion, Taylor County; Stephen Wilmot, McCreary Central

**MICHIGAN:** Cheryl Gibbons, Hastings; Jennifer Leininger, Waldron; Sarah Martz, Marshall; Shirley Pavlin, Montague; Lori Preston, Branch Area; Peter Tirrell, Charlotte

**MINNESOTA:** Wade Fowler, Winsted; Sarah Hayes, Watertown-Mayer; Elizabeth Pasch, Cannon Falls; Elizabeth Popowski, Harshall; Valerie Romann, Alexandria; Jacqueline Werner, Perham

**MISSOURI:** Kyle Beverlin, Trenton; Kate Blossom, Clopton; Seth Boyer, Maysville; Dana Farmer, Polo; David Fritz, Monroe City R-1; Jacob Hill, Sweet Springs; David Hoette, Montgomery Co. R-1; Andrea Lindquist, Schuyler R-1; Dallas Mulkott, Worth County; Phillip Ray, Trenton; Holly Stevens, Albany; Carrie Teufel, Sweet Springs; Nick Weiderholt, Stanberry; Andrew Weldon, Gallatin; Mike Weston, Joplin; Kenny Youtsey, Gallatin

**MONTANA:** Amanda McClure, Missoula; Jeannie Redd, Belgrade

**NEBRASKA:** Darby Bishop, Battle

Creek; Adam Engelman, Diller; Brady Fritz, Wilber-Clatonia; Katherine Kastanek, Wilber-Clatonia; Seth Spicer, Imperial; Kathlene Soukup, Verdigre

**NEVADA:** Thomas Gunter, Ruby Mountain

**NEW YORK:** Matthew Baideme, Westfield

**NORTH CAROLINA:** Jamey Braswell, Princeton; Michael Holland, Creswell

**OHIO:** David Crall, Bucyrus; Douglas Eichelberger, Crestview; Michael Prasuhn, Ansonia

**OKLAHOMA:** Amber Graham, Fairview; Brooke Hoisington, Cashion; Stacy Ingram, Caney Valley; Amanda Seidl, Garber; Carrie Trentham, Balko

**PENNSYLVANIA:** Nathan Sanders, Millflburg Area; Gretchen Vought, Meyersdale

**SOUTH CAROLINA:** Ashlea Hall, Abbeville

**SOUTH DAKOTA:** Michael Oppelt, Lake Preston; Nicholas Streff, McCook Central; Danica Uherka, Wagner

**TENNESSEE:** Clifford Hutcherson, Spring Hill

**TEXAS:** Amy Brockman, Kirbyville; Samantha Cartwright; Erik Griffith, Dayton; Alisha Hughes, Kirbyville; Jenise Judah, Snyder; Kristi Mahaffey, Pasadena; Corey Mathis, Gonzales; Trent McKnight, Throckmorton; Bonnie Meeler, Anahuac; Andrew Nelson, Day; Melissa Schrade, Somerset; John Shaffer, Huffman; Patrick Walke, Rockdale; Susan Wimberly, Yoakum

**VIRGINIA:** Tara Sellers, Broadway

**WASHINGTON:** Christina Boersema, Lynden; Sarah Gikerson, Onalaska; Jess Landgell, Columbia Burbank; Erin Leahy, Columbia Burbank; Melissa McGraw, Golendale; Jeri Norkus, McGreen; Christopher Reed, Rainier

**WISCONSIN:** Jennifer Blake, Cameron; Theresa Eslinger, Stanley-Boyd; Katherine Karow, Augusta; Lori McFarlin, Cochrane-Fountain; William Meister, Prairie du Chien; James Melby, Waupaca; Mary Pockat, Marion; Matthew Reinders, Johnson Creek; Robyn Tillou, Mayville

**WYOMING:** Dayle Butler, Pine Bluffs; Clark Spencer, Devil's Tower; Kiah Wilkins, Pine Bluffs





# National FFA Chorus

Sponsored by Ford Division—Ford Motor Company

In ancient Greece, a chorus provided lyrical interpretations of the action of a play. In the same way, the National FFA Chorus was the melodic illustrator of the convention's happenings. Performances were carefully coordinated with the events on stage to reflect the tone of the activities. Songs such as "Change the World" paired well with the visions of the speakers and the ambitions of award recipients and winners.

This year's 100-member chorus was assembled from a pool of 500 auditions submitted in July. Upon arriving in Kansas City on Saturday, members dedicated themselves to hours of rehearsals to develop their well-known harmony.

**CALIFORNIA:** Traci Erickson, Fallbrook; Matthew Holguin, Kern Valley High; Karyn Perry, Kingsburg

**IOWA:** Kathryn Boeck, Denison Friendly City; Julie Brice, Boon A&M; Ella Carlson, Harlan; Loren Gray, Stanton; Tamara Hoffman, Battle Creek-Ida Grove; Matthew Johnson, Decorah; Jennifer Kunde, Maquoketa Valley; Paula Lichtenstein, West Branch; Tara Noberg, Waverly-Shell Rock; Nathan Riedell, Wall-Lake View-Auburn

**IDAHO:** Gregory Allen, Teton; Clark Martin, Valluvue

**ILLINOIS:** Megan Walters, GCMS

**INDIANA:** Joseph Martin, Lewis Class

**KANSAS:** Lindsay Knouft, Holton; Naomi Read, Jayhawk Linn

**MARYLAND:** Christopher Cooney, North Harford

**MICHIGAN:** Rebecca Durant, #MI0014; Shannon Finnegan, Lowell; Ryan Hall, Gladwin; Michelle McPherson, Montague; Jacob Washburn, Marshall

**MISSOURI:** Matthew Baker, Worth County R-III; Bonnie Bandelier, Gallatin; David Graham, Bowling Green; Gregory Graybill, Princeton; Paul

The chorus made 15 appearances during the convention, singing on the main arena stage as well as in other locations throughout Kansas City. For the second consecutive year, they also performed the national anthem at the American Royal.

Roger Kelley of Washington State University directed the chorus, assisted by Lori Wiest, Brian Hoskins and Brian Theroux, all of Pullman, Wash. The chorus was chaperoned by Melissa Faulkenstein of Bartlett, Kan., and Peter Foss of Maddoc, N.D.

Pace, California; Nicholas Rausch, Perryville; Monica Suchsland, Chillicothe; Katie Zang, Trenton

**MONTANA:** Aaron Hodder, Big Timber; Roger Ludwick Jr., Carter County

**NEBRASKA:** Josh Barber, Republican Valley; Margaret Miller, Bayard; Scott Moritz, Sutton; Melody Nelms,

Republican Valley; Anthony Ogorzolk, Republican Valley

**NEVADA:** Missy Stockton, Mason Valley

**OKLAHOMA:** Michael Albert, Beaver; Cody Chaloner, Hinton; Mack Clinton, Lone Grove; Cara Foreman, Harrah; Paul Geisinger, Seiling; Dustin Harvey, Carnegie; Rachel Hood, Voss; Steve Ice, Tipton; Kristina Owens, Ft. Supply

**OREGON:** Clorinda Baird, North Clackamas; Leah Moon, McLoughlin; Leslie Williams, Estacada

**PENNSYLVANIA:** Rachel Hunter, Spud Growers; Gretchen Vought, Meyersdale

**TEXAS:** Jana Howe, Clyde; Craig Melton, Royal; Bo Petru, Gregory; Clint Wiley, Stockdale

**WASHINGTON:** Sarah Ayling, Granger; Mark Green, North Kitsap; Trevor Haas, Cathlamet; Carrie Hamilton, Lynden; Nathan Manring, Garfield-Palouse; Brandy Palmer, Garfield-Palouse; Zach Schoenwald, Wenatchee; Misty Smith, White Salmon

**WISCONSIN:** Eric Peterson, Amery



Balko, Okla., FFA member Carrie Trentham keeps an eye on the music during a flute solo. Many of the band's musicians soloed on stage before friends and fellow FFA members during convention sessions.



Lyrics and scores come alive through the angelic and talented voices of the National FFA Chorus. DeShun Callier from Pilot Point, Texas, makes her debut as a soloist during a choral performance.







# National FFA Talent

Sponsored by Ford Division—Ford Motor Company

Many convention goers were surprised to see a teenage boy clad in purple spandex spinning 25 feet above the stage, suspended by his head. But when it's time for the National FFA Talent participants to do their thing, you never know what to expect.

Bradley Smith, a member of the North Miami FFA Chapter in Indiana, dazzled crowds with his trapeze act. Other talented members had acts that were a little more conventional—and then there was the Elvis impersonator. The National FFA Talent Revue, performed Thursday evening, garnered thunderous applause and roaring cheers.

**ALABAMA:** Kim Bickley, Eufaula; Josh Bradshaw, Eufaula; Mitch Gissendaner, Eufaula; Joey Hinson, Eufaula; Kevin Jernigan, Eufaula; Allen Kirkland, Eufaula; Brad Mitchell, Eufaula; Garrett Nixon, Eufaula; JanReqa Pugh, Eufaula; Kella Stephenson, Eufaula; David Warren, Eufaula; Aftan Collum, Red Bay; Brittney Collum, Red Bay; Devin Dotson, Red Bay; Brandon Elliot, Red Bay; Daniel Garrison, Red Bay; Kacey Hester, Red Bay; Derek Humphries, Red Bay; Dustin Nunley, Red Bay; Gannon Nunley, Red Bay; Eric Thorn, Red Bay; Kelly Blackwell, Section

**ARIZONA:** Wade Escalante, Baboquivari; Shawn Miquel, Baboquivari; James Moreno, Baboquivari; Brian Ventura, Baboquivari

**ARKANSAS:** Dustin Shelton, Stuttgart

**COLORADO:** Anya Mack, Arickaree

**DELAWARE:** Heather Freeman, Sussex Central

**ILLINOIS:** Annette Miller, Nokomis

**INDIANA:** Bradley Smith, North Miami

**IOWA:** Jason Smith, Louisa-Muscatine; Matt Thie, Mediapolis



North Miami, Ind., FFA member Bradley Smith flies through the air with the greatest of ease 25 feet above the national convention stage.

The talented FFA members did more than perform for convention crowds. They strutted their stuff all over the greater Kansas City area, entertaining civic groups and other gatherings; more than 400 performances in all.

According to director Gary Maricle, principal of Excelsior Springs High School in nearby Liberty, Mo., 76 FFA members from 44 chapters came together to perform as part of the talent program. The talented FFA members were selected to participate based on audition tapes they submitted earlier in the year.

**MARYLAND:** C. Ben Williams, Frederick

**MICHIGAN:** Gretta Barie, Hillman

**MINNESOTA:** Nichole Waldeman, Chisago; Jessica Wille, Chisago; Justin Lessman, Tracy

**MISSISSIPPI:** Courtney Scoggin, Newton Municipal

**MISSOURI:** Laura Skipper, Chillicothe; Rachel Pamperin, Lebanon; Leah Reid, Sweet Springs; Lori Reid, Sweet Springs

**NEVADA:** Jay Dalton, Wells; Elizabeth Lawson, Smith Valley

**NEW MEXICO:** Bethany Sanchez, Hondo; Summer Savage, Portales

**NORTH CAROLINA:** Brittany Whitmire, Rosmann

**OHIO:** Angela Allen, Edgewood; Katie Mabry, Fairbanks; Matthew Schieferstein, Monroeville

**OKLAHOMA:** Jarie Pierce, Buffalo; Terah McKee, Haworth; Elizabeth Kinney,

Mooreland; Kristin Johnson, Mountain View-Gotebo; Rachel Drawbaugh, Vanoss

**PENNSYLVANIA:** Dayna Weinhold, Hans Herr

**TEXAS:** Ronald Elliott Jr., Coldspring; Daniel Williams, Coldspring; Stephen Brown, Katy; John Burch, Hempstead; Gabriel Garcia, Lytle; Sarah White, Northside; Deanna Merrill, Prairiland; Jonathan Newman, Prairiland; Amber Norwood, Prairiland

**UTAH:** Donnie Phillips, Mount Nebo; George Phillips, Mount Nebo; James Phillips, Mount Nebo; Judy Phillips, Mount Nebo; Stephen Phillips, Mount Nebo

**WASHINGTON:** Christopher Guenther, Chehalis; Jessica Beall, North Kitsap; Marc Johnson, North Kitsap

**WISCONSIN:** Crystal Neuman, Osceola; Matthew Reinders, Johnson Creek





# VIP Citation

Throughout its 70-year history, FFA has benefited from countless hours of service from thousands of people. The VIP Citation is FFA's way of thanking those who have provided extraordinary levels of dedication to the organization. The following 13 awardees were recognized Thursday afternoon for their tireless efforts to serve young people in agriculture.



**Dr. Victor A. Bekkum** of Huxley, Iowa, has contributed many years of service to the National Agricultural Mechanics Career Development Event including developing computerized programs for the contest. Bekkum is on the faculty of Iowa State University.

**Dr. William W. Bushmeyer** of Warrensburg, Mo., has been involved as either a judge or a superintendent in the National Agricultural Mechanics Career Development Event since 1980. Bushmeyer is a faculty member of Central Missouri State University.

**Doug E. Butler** of Madison, Wis., served the National FFA Foundation for 14 years. Butler, a former state FFA officer and agricultural education teacher in Colorado, is currently the development director for Abundant Life Christian School in Madison.

**Harry Cleberg** of Kansas City, Mo., is president of Farmland Industries, Inc., a company which has supported the FFA for 52 years. Cleberg served on the National FFA Foundation Sponsors' Board.

**Raymond Cockrum** of Guthrie, Okla., retired as a member of the state staff after 18 years. He served as Oklahoma's alumni advisor and was a member of the National FFA Alumni Council.

**Dr. Jerry Crownover** of Halltown, Mo., has served as a judge or superintendent of the National Parliamentary Procedure Contest since its beginning in 1978. He is a professor of agricultural education at Southwest Missouri State University.

**Lennie Gamage** of Alexandria, Va., began his service to the organization as a national FFA officer and continued for 37 years as national FFAs International Student Program Manager and then as Team Leader for Human and Fiscal Resources. He is now retired, but still volunteers time to the FFA.

**Jack G. Justus** of Little Rock, Ark., served as Executive Vice President of the Arkansas Farm Bureau. He retired after 44 years of service to agriculture.

**C. Richard Karelse** of Lansing, Mich., served for

25 years as state FFA advisor before retiring. During his years of service, Karelse served on the Michigan FFA Foundation Board and the National FFA Board of Directors.

**Dr. Edwin E. Lamberth** of Cookeville, Tenn., has served since 1958 on various committees and agricultural organizations including a consultant position for the National FFA Organization's Nursery/Landscape Career Development Event. Lamberth is currently an agricultural educator at Tennessee Technological University.

**Hal Moon** of Kansas City, Mo., has supported the National FFA Agricultural Mechanics Career Development Event for over 20 years. Moon is currently a manager with John Deere Co.

**Calvin Paul Stark** of Los Osos, Calif., recently retired after 20 years as a regional FFA advisor and consultant for the California Department of Education. His efforts also introduced Spanish into the FFA curriculum.

**Dennis Stewart** of Overland Park, Kan., began his many years of service with the FFA over 25 years with the National Agricultural Mechanics Career Development Event. Stewart is a division marketing manager with John Deere Co.



*In appreciation of their extraordinary service and support of FFA, 13 individuals were honored with VIP Citations Thursday. Back Row, L to R: Dr. Victor A. Bekkum; Jack G. Justus; Dr. William W. Bushmeyer; Douglas E. Butler; Raymond Cockrum; Harry D. Cleberg. Front Row, L to R: Dr. Jerry Crownover; Lennie Gamage; Dr. Edwin E. Lamberth; C.R. Karelse; Hal Moon; Dennis Stewart. Not pictured: Calvin P. Stark.*







# Honorary American FFA Degrees

The hundreds of awards and activities that take place at the national level in Kansas City and at the state and local level across the country wouldn't be possible without an army of willing, enthusiastic people who give generously of their time and talents. The Honorary American FFA Degree is bestowed on those who provide extraordinary service to young people in agriculture. The following list includes businesspeople, agriculture teachers, college educators, state and national FFA staff and school administrators who have all positively affected the organization. Each recipient was thanked and congratulated on stage Friday morning and was presented with a certificate and an honorary key.

## FFA SUPPORTERS

**ALABAMA:** William E. Powell III, Montgomery; Earnest D. Rigney, Montgomery

**ARIZONA:** George Seperich, Mesa

**ARKANSAS:** David L. Choate, Beebe; George Hopkins, Malvern; Freddie Scott, Fayetteville

**CALIFORNIA:** Thomas Dickinson, Chico; Phil Doub, San Luis Obispo; George Gomes, Sacramento; William C. Kellogg Jr., Atascadero; Jean Landeen, Sacramento; Gail Simmons, San Luis Obispo

**COLORADO:** Jeri Mattics, Montrose

**DELAWARE:** Keelan W. Pulliam, Wilmington

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA:** Kenneth D. Ackerman, Washington; Sue R. King, Washington; Roger Viadero, Washington

**FLORIDA:** E. C. Henderson Jr., Leesburg; Sandra H. TenBroeck, Gainesville; Jim Thornhill, Bartow

**GEORGIA:** Wendell L. Griffin, Albany; Randall Pugh, Jefferson; James R. Sanders, Savannah

**IDAHO:** Roland C. Bean, Burley; Andrew D. Wiseman, Castelford

**ILLINOIS:** Jan Brown, LeRoy; Terence Dockerty, Chicago; Terence M. Mitchell, Des Plaines; Larry Pfeiffer, Carlinville; James D. Speir, Libertyville

**INDIANA:** Donald W. Hecht, Indianapolis; Terry Henderson, Cicero; Ted McKinney, Indianapolis

**MICHIGAN:** Charles K. Arensmeier, Lansing; Robert G. Craig, Lansing; Dan Wyatt, Lansing

**MINNESOTA:** Jerry Hawton, St. Paul; Donald G. Sargeant, Crookston; Jerry Schoenfeld, Bloomington

**MISSISSIPPI:** D. Stephen Holland, Jackson; Tom Maxwell, Jackson; James E. Sardin, Jackson; Ron Stewart, Jackson; Billy H. Thames, Mize

**MISSOURI:** Stephen D. Barr, Clayton; Al Benz, Raytown; Max A. Fisher, St. Louis; Mark Govea, Kansas City; Donald H. Pratt, Kansas City

**NEVADA:** John Jeans, Carson City

**NEW JERSEY:** Connie Beal, Bridgeton; Jack Gallagher, Trenton; Arthur Y. Jarman, Monroeville

**NEW MEXICO:** Paul Gutierrez, Albuquerque; Greg Smith, Elida

**NORTH CAROLINA:** Michael C. Ames, Greensboro

**OHIO:** Robert Moser, Columbus; Robert D. Sommers II, Columbus

**OKLAHOMA:** James L. Callaway, Duncan; Joe H.

Hughes Jr., Stillwater; Phillip Klutts, Oklahoma City; Eldon Merklin, Oklahoma City

**OREGON:** Lyle Mann, Island City; Sam Pambrun, Pendleton

**PENNSYLVANIA:** Gene H. Hemphill, New Holland; James M. Kerr Jr., Peach Bottom

**SOUTH CAROLINA:** James H. Daniels, Clemson; Barbara M. Massey, Starr

**SOUTH DAKOTA:** Lonell L. Moeller, Brookings

**TENNESSEE:** Angelo A. Volpe, Cookeville

**TEXAS:** Doyel E. Chandler, Kirbyville; Ford King Jr., Woden;

J.E. Laney, Austin; Wayne Mason, Woden; David Mooman, Huntsville; Billie Reding, Madisonville

**VIRGINIA:** Greg Egan, Alexandria; Yvonne Gleason, Alexandria; Linda Richards, Alexandria; Jeananne E. Riggs, Alexandria; Connie Tyler, Alexandria; Min Williams, Alexandria

**WASHINGTON:** John Raupp, Winlock

**WEST VIRGINIA:** Troy M. Yokum, Seneca Rocks

**WISCONSIN:** Jon R. Carlson, Racine; Gary O. Solum, Turtle Lake; Dean Yandry, Ft. Atkinson

**WYOMING:** J. Ronald Micheli, Cheyenne

## PARENTS OF NATIONAL OFFICERS

**ALABAMA:** Charles D. Jones, Billingsley; Jan L. Jones, Billingsley

**COLORADO:** Ken Fehringer, Peetz; Judy Fehringer, Peetz

**KANSAS:** Lindon Montgomery, McDonald; Diane Montgomery, McDonald

**NORTH CAROLINA:** Murd F. Starling, Autryville; JoAnne M. Starling, Autryville

**OHIO:** Roger Bentley, Sabina; Beverly Bentley, Sabina

**TEXAS:** Vickie Rosenbusch, Glen Rose



*Trico, Ill., agriculture teacher Lawrence W. Huseman received an Honorary American FFA Degree in recognition of years of dedication to FFA.*



## PARENTS OF STARS OVER AMERICA FINALISTS AND WINNERS

CALIFORNIA: Sandra Sweeney,  
Kingsburg; Michael Sweeney,  
Kingsburg

CONNECTICUT: Anita Mickels,  
Darien; Carl Mickels, Darien

KANSAS: Janet Barrett, Hope; Steve  
Barrett, Hope

NEBRASKA: Marilyn Herrick,  
Franklin; Richard Herrick, Franklin

OHIO: Margaret Dudgeon, Mt.  
Vernon; Norman Dudgeon, Mt.  
Vernon

SOUTH DAKOTA: Linda McIntyre,  
Winfred; Neal McIntyre, Winfred

TEXAS: Phyllis McFerrin, Cotton  
Center; Joe McFerrin, Cotton Center

WISCONSIN: Grace Dziedzic,  
Almond; Mike Warzinik, Stevens  
Point

## RETIRING NATIONAL FFA BOARD OF DIRECTORS, TRUSTEES AND CONSULTANTS

FLORIDA: Shirley Carte, Live Oak;

GEORGIA: Ray V. Herren, Athens

IOWA: Wayne L. Beck, Johnston

KENTUCKY: Linda Story, Livermore

MASSACHUSETTS: David B.  
Hopson, Blandford

OREGON: Judy Mayfield, Salem

PENNSYLVANIA: Blannie B. Bowen,  
University Park

## AGRICULTURE TEACHERS

ALABAMA: Willie J. Gholston,  
Wilcox Central; Terry V.  
Underwood, South Baldwin Center  
for Technology

ARKANSAS: Homer Lenderman,  
Brookland

CALIFORNIA: Mike Campbell,  
Imperial; Wayne Dozier, Escondido;  
Jaime Farao, Gustine; Jamie B.  
Lunstad, Hanford; Gary W. Nelson,  
Fresno-Pershing; Sharon  
Weisenberger, Quartz Hill

COLORADO: Trent Bushner, Yuma

GEORGIA: David P. Forrest, Upson-  
Lee

IDAHO: Donald L. Bird, West  
Jefferson

ILLINOIS: Lawrence W. Huseman,  
Trico (Campbell Hill); John T.  
Kabot, Mt. Vernon

IOWA: David Lantz, West Lyon;  
Barbara A. Lemmer, Anamosa

KANSAS: Larry A. Gossen, Neodesha;  
James D. Patry, Wilson

KENTUCKY: Larry M. Hendrick,  
Central Hardin

MINNESOTA: Dale Erickson,  
Mahnomon; Michael Pagel, Fulda;  
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Jasper; Paul D. Mullins, Ste.  
Genevieve; David Nowland,  
Chillicothe; Russell Ramsey, Dexter;  
Jim Spencer Jr., Aurora

NEBRASKA: Donald Philipps,  
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NEVADA: Dennis M. Digenan, Spring  
Creek

NEW JERSEY: Cynthia A. Roszel,  
Allentown

NEW YORK: Spencer I. Gridley,  
Sidney

NORTH CAROLINA: Carlton T.  
Forehand, Camden County; James  
C. Guard Sr., Currituck; Richard A.  
Scipel, Starmount

OKLAHOMA: John Golliver, Agra;  
Gary D. Hill, Wilburton; Jim  
Jenkins, Bethel; Bob Mitchell Jr.,  
Ripley; Barry R. Weathers, Broken  
Arrow

OREGON: Dennis Clark, Union

PENNSYLVANIA: Philip H. Ogline,  
Garden Spot

TENNESSEE: Ray D. Clements,  
Hermitage Springs; LeRoy Helton,  
Sevier; George R. Whitfield, Henry  
County

TEXAS: Garry T. Boyd, Union Grove;  
Donald Cheshier, Mt. Pleasant;  
David W. Howell, Cotton Center;  
Elizabeth Treptow, Weimar; Ronald  
K. Wunderlich, New Braunfels

WASHINGTON: Jim Cockle,  
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WEST VIRGINIA: James A.  
Workman, Roane County

WISCONSIN: Jenifer J. Erb,  
Waupaca; David Leahy, Shullsburg;  
Timothy Pederson, Amherst



*An Honorary American FFA Degree was presented to Homer Lenderman, an agriculture teacher from Brookland, Ark.*







# National FFA Foundation Sponsors

The National FFA Foundation is on a 31-year winning streak. This year, supporters from across the nation contributed a record \$7.1 million for FFA programs and agricultural education, another all-time high.

Foundation Sponsors' Board Chairman Wayne L. Beck, who is vice president for supply management for Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc., addressed Thursday evening's session. In addition to the annual program funds raised for FFA, Beck announced that nearly \$3 million has been pledged to the "I Believe in the Future" Capital Campaign to relocate the FFA Center to Indianapolis, Ind., in May 1998.

The charge of carrying on the record-breaking tradition was granted to A. Charles Fischer, vice president of North America, DowElanco and the 1998 Foundation Sponsors' Board Chairman-elect. Since 1944, the National FFA Foundation has raised more than \$80 million for FFA members for awards, scholarships and achievement programs.

## 50-Year Sponsors

Case Corporation, Racine, Wis.  
Lincoln Arc Welding Foundation,  
Cleveland, Ohio  
Oscar Mayer Foods Corporation,  
Madison, Wis.  
Kraft Foods, Inc., Glenview, Ill.  
Red Brand Non-Climb Horse Fence/  
Made by Keystone Steel & Wire  
Company, Peoria, Ill.

## 35-Year Sponsors

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GROWMARK, Inc., Bloomington, Ill.  
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State Farm Companies Foundation,  
Bloomington, Ill.

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### 1997 Chairman

Wayne L. Beck, Vice President—  
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Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.

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## New and Continuing Sponsors' Board

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Executive Officer, Purina Mills, Inc.  
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Company  
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tural Education  
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President, Operations, Kraft  
Foods, Inc.

FFA would like to thank the following businesses and associations which provided undesignated support for the 1997 National FFA Convention:

City of Kansas City; Hallmark Corporate Foundation;  
American Royal Association, Inc., Farmland Industries, Inc.,  
The H&R Block Foundation; Kansas City Power & Light  
Company; Kansas City Southern Industries, Inc.; Marion  
Merrell Dow, Inc.; Yellow Freight System, Inc.; Sprint Founda-  
tion; John & Judy Wempe; Humana Health Care Plans; The  
Kansas City Star Company; North American Salt Company;  
Nations Bank Midwest; Commerce Bank; Sprint/United  
Telephone-Midwest; Bayer Corporation, Agriculture Division;  
Butler Manufacturing Company Foundation on behalf of  
Butler Rural Buildings, Butler Grain Systems and Lester



John R. Hill, Vice President, Sales and Marketing, Lester Building Systems  
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 Henry "Chic" Mohr, Director of Commercial Marketing, Winchester Division/Olin Corporation  
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 Herman T. Wilson Jr., President, Pioneer Equipment Co.

## Distinguished Service Citations



Three national FFA sponsors were honored for outstanding support with the Distinguished Service Citation. Pictured left to right are: Nicholas Babson, Babson Bros. Co./SURGE; Dr. Marilyn Kourilsky, Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation; and Robert Ratliff, AGCO Corporation.

Thousands of agribusinesses, associations and individuals give life to the many award and program areas of the National FFA Foundation. However, a few supporters each year are recognized for giving extraordinary levels of time, energy and funding, some for over a half-century. The National FFA Organization takes its hat off to these special companies, and awarded them the Distinguished Service Citation during Thursday afternoon's session.

- AGCO Corporation of Duluth, Ga., has supported the National FFA Organization for 51 years. In addition to financial contributions, the company has provided leadership to the National FFA Foundation Sponsors' Board. AGCO has hosted tours for 20 years and issued a limited-edition toy tractor as an FFA fund-raiser.
- Babson Bros. Co./SURGE of Naperville, Ill., has sponsored such events as Agricultural Sales & Service and Dairy Judging Career Development Events as well as Collegiate Scholarships during its 20 years of support to agricultural education and the FFA. The company has also provided leadership to the National FFA Foundation Sponsors' Board.
- Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership Inc., Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation of Kansas City, Mo., earned this distinction through financial and technical assistance to the FFA and The Council. Their support of the Agri-Entrepreneurship Award Program has allowed students from 38 of the 54 state associations to experience the spirit of free enterprise and development of creative entrepreneurship and innovation.



Some of the most important figures in global agribusiness serve on the the National FFA Foundation Sponsors' Board. These very busy people devote precious time, energy and support to the foundation, which raised \$7.1 million for FFA and agricultural education.







# H.O. Sargent Award

Sponsored by Merial

The H.O. Sargent Award is designed to recognize both FFA members and non-FFA members who have achieved and promoted diversity in agricultural education and the FFA. The award was established for non-members in 1995 to remember the New Farmers of America (NFA) and to recognize its place in the history of the FFA. NFA was the organization for African-American agriculture students, before it was incorporated into FFA in 1965.

## MEMBER WINNER

**WISCONSIN:** Joel Bernhard, Lomira

**NATIONAL FINALISTS:** Jay Callaway, Snyder, Texas; Jose Santiago Gonzalez, Lorenzo Coballe Grandia, Puerto Rico; and Lori Staib, Chateaugay, New York

## NON-MEMBER WINNERS

**INDIANA:** Bruce W. Bye, Elanco Animal Health, Indianapolis

**PENNSYLVANIA:** Blannie E. Bowen, professor, Pennsylvania State University, University Park

**TENNESSEE:** Nelson J. Senter, retired agricultural education instructor, Nashville

The award was expanded this year to include FFA members' contributions to diversity. This particular award is open to anyone who has been involved with agricultural education and has implemented new programs to promote agricultural diversity.



The H.O. Sargent Award was presented for the third time at national convention. The 1997 non-member recipients (from left) are Nelson J. Senter, Blannie Bowen and Bruce W. Bye; all recognized for making FFA and agricultural education more diverse.

The non-member winners were recognized for their efforts in establishing programs, serving as role models and mentors, and organizing scholarships and recognition programs to attract and support minority involvement in agricultural education. Each non-member winner received a plaque and recognition on stage during the convention.

Joel Bernhard, the member winner, has been active in FFA for four years. His involvement in the promotion of diversity started when he wanted to teach the public all aspects of being blind. Bernhard has been blind since the age of five and wanted to reach out to the public about his disabil-

ity. Bernhard has experienced one of his best turkey hunting seasons this fall, something that he can use to teach others how adversity will not overcome him.

"Activities I was involved in gave students and teachers a better understanding of how it feels to be blind," Bernhard said, "helping them realize it takes a little longer to get to class or take notes or figure out who's talking to you when they don't tell you who they are."

Bernhard was recognized on stage Friday afternoon and received a plaque and a \$500 cash award.



Joel Bernhard, an FFA member who is blind, accepts the national H.O. Sargent member award. Bernhard educates the public about blindness, and even goes turkey hunting to show that he can accomplish anything. Pictured from left are National FFA Officer Ray Starling presenting the award to Bernhard, with his FFA advisor (right) and award recipient Nelson J. Senter looking on.





# National FFA Alumni Association



Tears well up in Linda Story's eyes when she talks about how important the FFA has been to her family. Story, who describes herself as "just a hairdresser" from Livermore, Ky., was elected president of the National FFA Alumni Association this year at the organization's 26th annual convention.

Story believes the post will allow her to give something back to the organization she says built her son and many other students into successful professionals. "It made a big, big difference for my son," she said of the FFA.

That commitment to young people and the FFA is a common thread among alumni members. The National FFA Alumni Association has grown to more than 40,000 members nationwide. Some have worn the blue jackets, others are parents of FFA members, still others simply believe in what the organization does for young people. All work hard in their communities to support the organization.

As usual, the annual alumni convention was action-packed. The members elected their leadership for the coming year; voting in Story as president; Barry Anderson of Aurora, Nebraska, as Vice president; F. Mac Hodges of North Carolina as eastern region council representative; and Gene Vail of Arkansas as southern region representative. Ty England again served as National FFA Alumni spokesperson, actively working to increase visibility for the organization.

The Scott County, Ky., FFA Alumni affiliate was named the 1997 Outstanding Alumni Affiliate. Blue Blazer awards, presented to states which increased their rosters by at least 100 members, went to Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Ohio, Texas and Kansas.

Three alumni earned Outstanding Achievement Awards for their exemplary service to the organization. R.D. Johnson, a charter member of the LeRoy FFA Alumni Chapter in Illinois, has been a member of the executive council for the past 16 years. He serves as the central region representative on the Alumni Council. John D. Kent, of Madrid, Iowa, is a charter life member of the United Community FFA Alumni. He has served the FFA in many

capacities, including as a member of Iowa's FFA Foundation board of directors.

Kathleen L. Kent, also of Madrid, Iowa, serves as treasurer of both her local alumni affiliate and the state alumni organization. She, too, has held a post on Iowa's foundation board.

The auction, one of the alumni's time-honored events, was once again well-attended and supported. Continuing 53 years of sponsorship, CHEVY donated one of their best-selling trucks, a half-ton Silverado, 4x4 extended cab version. It sold for \$23,000 to Steve Reinhard of Ashland, Ohio, who is an FFA advisor. \$1,000 of the purchase price goes to a scholarship fund of the buyer's choice. Many other items were sold through a silent auction.

The alumni convention closed, and the members returned home with the gathering's theme in mind: "Our Commitment Carved in Stone...Our Commitment Endures."



*Chevy Truck purchaser Steve Reinhard is congratulated by Bill Ames, National Merchandising Manager for Chevrolet Motor Division, after the Friday night auction.*







# Career Show

There are few places other than the National Agricultural Career Show where a convention visitor can investigate colleges, surf the 'Net, look under the hood of a brand-new pickup truck, network for jobs, engage in target practice, do pull-ups and sample the edible wares of several businesses—all in one convenient location, accompanied by like-minded FFA members and others looking for the latest trends in industry and education.

There were 338 exhibitors who displayed in Kansas City this year, including representatives from over 80 colleges and universities, government and military depart-

ments and agencies, agribusinesses, and other organizations. Most offered brochures and other valuable information, and visitors snapped up the dozens of "freebies" available, everything from pencils and keychains to mouse pads and CD-ROMs.

The presence of computers and technology was felt throughout the exhibition, as some offered chances to link up with websites and others tested visitors' knowledge with agricultural trivia. Many technical institutes and corporations enlightened potential employees and students about career opportunities. Everywhere were reminders of the new directions possible in agriculture, and convention-goers left the Career Show filled with information and ideas.



Travis Barrett (second from left), an American Star Farmer finalist from Hope, Kan., shares his secrets of success with other members during the FFA National Agricultural Career Show.

## Hall of States

Alaska Association  
Arizona Association  
Arkansas Association  
Colorado Association  
Connecticut Association  
Delaware Association  
Hawaii Association  
Idaho Association  
Illinois Association  
Indiana Association  
Iowa Association  
Kentucky Association  
Louisiana Association  
Maryland Association  
Massachusetts Association  
Michigan Association  
Mississippi Association  
Montana Association

Nebraska Association  
New Hampshire Association  
New Jersey Association  
New Mexico Association  
New York Association  
North Carolina Association  
North Dakota Association  
Ohio Association  
Oregon Association  
Pennsylvania Association  
Puerto Rico Association  
South Carolina Association  
South Dakota Association  
Tennessee Association  
Texas Association  
Utah Association  
Virginia Association  
Washington Association  
Wisconsin Association  
Wyoming Association

## Career Show Exhibitors

1-800-COLLECT  
Abraham Baldwin Ag College  
Acro Printing and Publishing  
Ag Decisions, Inc.  
AGCO  
AgEd Network/Stewart-Peterson Group  
Agri-Education, Inc.  
Agri-Entrepreneurship Finalists  
Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow  
Agricultural Consortium of Texas  
Agricultural Resources & Communications  
Agricultural Youth Safety Education  
Alcorn State University  
Alexandria Technical College  
Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity  
Alpha Zeta Fraternity/Mid America Crop Protection Association  
American Academy of Family Physicians  
American Angus Association  
American Association for Vocational Instructional Materials (AAVIM)  
American Belgian Blue Breeders  
American Blonde d'Aquitaine Association  
American Cyanamid Company  
American Dairy Goat Association  
American Farm Bureau Federation, Young Farmer & Rancher Activities  
American Farm Collection  
American Fisheries Society-Missouri Chapter  
American Gelbvieh Association  
American International Charolais Association  
American Maine-Anjou Association  
American Morgan Horse Institute, Inc.  
American Murray Grey Association  
American National Cattlewomen, Inc.  
American Ostrich Association  
American Paint Horse Association  
American Phytopathological Society, The  
American Pinzgauer Association  
American Quarter Horse Association  
American Sales Association  
American Shorthorn Association  
American Simmental Association  
American Tarentaise Association  
American Veterinary Medical Association  
Amoco Lubricants  
Animal Industry Foundation  
Annah Marketing Group, Inc.  
Applied Technologies  
Aquacenter, Inc.  
Aquaculture Systems Technologies  
Aquatic Eco Systems  
Archer Daniels Midland Co.  
Asgrow Seed Co.  
Auburn University  
Bayer Corporation, Agricultural Division  
BIOMAT Inc.  
Breaking New Ground Resource Center  
Briggs & Stratton Corp.  
Buck Knives, Inc.  
California State University—Chico  
Career Development Systems  
Carhart, Inc.  
Carolina Biological Supply Company  
CARQUEST Corporation  
Case IH  
CENEX/Land O'Lakes  
Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership, Inc., at the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation  
Central Community College  
Ceres Fraternity  
Channel EARTH Communications  
CHEVROLET TRUCKS  
Chicago Board of Trade  
Chicago Mercantile Exchange  
Christian Kropf Gift Fruits  
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Colorado State University  
Communicating for Agriculture Exchange Program  
Community Calendars  
Cornell University  
Creative Educational Video, Inc.  
Crosman Airguns  
DATA MATCH, Inc.



Delaware State University  
 Delaware Valley College  
 Delmar Publishers, Inc.  
 DeWALT High Performance Industrial  
 Tools  
 Dodge Trucks—Chrysler Corporation  
 DowElanco  
 Drake University Agricultural Law Society  
 DTN (Data Transmission Network)  
 DuPont  
 Environmental Care, Inc.  
 Equipment & Engine Training Council  
 Equipment Manufacturers Institute  
 Facilitating Coordination in Agricultural  
 Education FCAE  
 Farm Works Software  
 FarmHouse Fraternity  
 Farmland Industries  
 Ag-Chem Equipment Co., Inc.  
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 Fastline Publications  
 Fellowship of Christian Farmers  
 International  
 Firestone Agricultural Tire Division  
 Florida Department of Citrus  
 Florida Fruit Association, Inc.  
 Ford Division—Ford Motor Company  
 FS/Growmark  
 Gempler's, Inc.  
 Georgia Boot Inc.  
 Hamilton - Locke, Inc.  
 Hardie's Honey Farm  
 Hawkeye Community College  
 Hobart Publications/Finney Company  
 Homestead Rodeo School  
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 Illinois State University  
 Instructional Materials Lab—University of  
 Missouri  
 Instructional Materials Service—Texas  
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 Association  
 International Arabian Horse Association  
 International Food Information Council  
 Interstate Publishers, Inc.  
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 Iowa Select Farms  
 Iowa State University  
 Iowa State University—Horticulture  
 Dept.  
 Iowa Western Livestock Judging Contest  
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 John Deere  
 John Deere Boats  
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 Justin Boot Company  
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 Kraft Foods, Inc.  
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 Langdon Barber Groves, Inc.  
 Lincoln Electric Company  
 Lincoln Land Community College  
 Livestock Conservation Institute  
 Louisiana State University  
 Maple Grove Distributing, Inc.  
 Michelin Tires  
 Michigan State University  
 Mid-America Dairywomen, Inc.  
 Mid-America Nazarene University  
 Middle Tennessee State University

Midwest Trophy Co., Inc.  
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 Missouri Valley College  
 Modesto Junior College  
 Monsanto Crop Protection  
 Monsanto Greenstrip Program  
 MoorMan's Inc./Quincy Soybean Co./  
 Quincy Design & Manufacturing, Inc.  
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 National Agri-Marketing Association  
 National Agricultural Aviation Association  
 National Alliance of Independent Crop  
 Consultants  
 National Antique Tractor Pullers  
 Association  
 National Association of Clovia  
 National Bison Association  
 National Center for Appropriate  
 Technology  
 National Corn Growers Association  
 National Council for Agricultural  
 Education  
 National Council of Farmer Cooperatives  
 National Farmers Union  
 National FFA—Agriculture Student  
 Award Program Displays  
 National FFA Alumni Association  
 National FFA Diversity Exhibit  
 National FFA Foundation - Capital  
 Campaign  
 National FFA Online  
 National FFA Programs and Activities  
 (Student)  
 National FFA Programs and Activities  
 (Teachers and Partners)  
 National Futures Association  
 National High School Rodeo Association  
 National Little Britches Rodeo Association  
 National Pork Producers Council  
 National Rifle Association of America  
 National Vocational Agricultural Teachers'  
 Association, Inc. (NVATA)  
 National Wild Turkey Federation  
 National Youth Cutting Horse Association  
 Nature's Technology, Inc.  
 New Mexico State University  
 North American Corriente Association  
 North American Elk Breeders Association  
 North American Limousin Foundation  
 North American Salt Co.  
 North Carolina State University  
 North Dakota State University  
 Northeastern Junior College  
 Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College  
 Northwest Missouri State University  
 Northwestern College  
 Northwestern Ohio Tractor Pullers  
 Ohio Agricultural Education Curriculum  
 Materials Service  
 Oklahoma Curriculum & Instructional  
 Materials Center  
 Oklahoma State University  
 Oregon State University  
 Oscar Mayer Foods  
 P. P. P. Communications  
 Peace Corps  
 Pennsylvania State University  
 Pfizer Animal Health - Dectomax Next  
 Generation Program  
 Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.  
 Power Technology, Inc.

Purdue University  
 Purina Mills, Inc.  
 Ringer Foods -  
 Aquaculture Division  
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 Sabatino & Associates  
 Schering-Plough  
 Animal Health  
 Schrade Cutlery  
 Seald-Sweet Growers,  
 Inc.  
 Selective Service  
 System  
 Shelterking  
 Show Me Genetics  
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 Sigma Alpha Sorority  
 Silver State International Rodeo, Inc.  
 Snap On Tools  
 Society for Range  
 Management  
 Society of American Florists  
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 Sooner Trailer  
 South Putnam/Area 30 Career Center—  
 Indiana  
 Southeast Community College—Beatrice  
 Southern Illinois University at  
 Carbondale  
 Southwest Missouri State University—  
 Collegiate FFA  
 Stone Manufacturing & Supply Company  
 Stuppy Greenhouse Manufacturing  
 Company  
 Sunkist Growers, Inc.  
 Superior Growers Supply  
 Swine Genetics International, Ltd.  
 Terra Industries  
 The Citizens Flag Alliance, Inc.  
 The Ertl Co., Inc.  
 The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company  
 The Humane Society of the United States  
 The National Rural Telecommunications  
 Cooperative (NRTC)  
 The Ohio State University  
 The University of Arizona  
 The University of Georgia  
 Titan Tire Corporation  
 Triad Products L. P.  
 Tulsa Welding School  
 U.S. Air Force Recruiting Service  
 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
 U.S. Army Recruiting Command  
 U.S. Custom Harvesters, Inc.  
 U.S. Department of Labor  
 U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Squaw  
 Creek  
 National Wildlife Refuge  
 U.S. Marine Corps  
 U.S. Navy Recruiting Command  
 University of Arkansas  
 University of California—Davis  
 University of Florida  
 University of Idaho  
 University of Illinois  
 University of Kentucky  
 University of Kentucky—Distance  
 Learning  
 University of Maine  
 University of Maryland, Institute of  
 Applied Agriculture  
 University of Minnesota—St. Paul



*An added feature of the Career Show this year was the broadcast of national FFA convention by CHANNEL EARTH Communications. FFA members could watch live interviews.*

University of Missouri—Columbia  
 University of Nebraska—Lincoln  
 University of Puerto Rico—Mayaguez  
 Campus  
 University of Wisconsin—Madison  
 University of Wisconsin—Platteville  
 University of Wisconsin—River Falls  
 University of Wyoming  
 Urbana Laboratories  
 USDA ARS Grain Marketing and  
 Production Research Center  
 USDA ARS—National Center for  
 Agricultural Utilization Research  
 USDA ARS—Southern Regional Center  
 USDA Cooperative Services  
 USDA Cooperative State Research,  
 Education and Extension Service  
 USDA Economic Research Service  
 USDA Farm Service Agency  
 USDA Foreign Agriculture Service,  
 Export Service Division  
 USDA Forest Service  
 USDA Marketing and Regulatory  
 Programs  
 USDA National Agricultural Library  
 USDA National Agricultural Statistics  
 Service/CENSUS  
 USDA National Animal Disease Center  
 USDA Natural Resources Conservation  
 Service  
 USDA Office of Inspector General  
 USDA Risk Management Agency—  
 Topeka Regional Service Office  
 Virginia Tech, College of Agriculture &  
 Agricultural Education  
 VisAg Software  
 Washington State University  
 Western Illinois University, Agriculture  
 Department  
 Winchester Ammunition—Olin  
 Corporation  
 Winrock International  
 WIX Filters Products Division of Dana  
 Corporation  
 Woman's Christian Temperance Union  
 Wood-Mizer Products, Inc.  
 Zeccraft Tech.







# Courtesy Corps

Hundreds of FFA members were operating behind the scenes while their fellow members were being recognized on stage. They were the members of the Courtesy Corps, a legion of FFA member volunteers who stuffed envelopes, guard doors, escort speakers, carry tables and chairs, and generally offer a helping hand to anyone who needs it. The yellow armbands were ubiquitous throughout the Municipal Auditorium and Bartle Hall, and signaled a spirit of willing helpfulness.

**ALABAMA:** Billingsley; Wetumpka

**ARIZONA:** Highland; Kofa

**ARKANSAS:** Berryville; Lake Hamilton

**CALIFORNIA:** Red Bluff

**COLORADO:** Woodlin; Cortez

**CONNECTICUT:** North-western Regional #7

**FLORIDA:** Columbia; Durant; George Jenkins; Haines City; Hamilton Co.; Miami; North Marion; Northview; Pasco-Comp; Sebring; South Fork; South Lake; Suwanee; Taylor Sr.; Zephyrhills

**ILLINOIS:** Chicago HS for Agriculture Sciences; Liberty

**INDIANA:** Indian Creek; North Harrison; Norwell; Scottsburg; South Adams; Star Academy; Triton Central

**IOWA:** Anamosa; Boyer Valley; Gilbert; Iowa State University; Maquoketa; St. Ansgar; Westwood; Williamsburg

**KANSAS:** Eureka; Marois des Cygnes Valley; Concordia

**KENTUCKY:** Barren County; Heath; Jessamine County; Scott County; Spencer County; Hickman County

**LOUISIANA:** Bogalusa; Covington; Pearl River; Sixth Ward; Jennings; Franklinton; Summer

**MARYLAND:** Linganore

**MINNESOTA:** Blue Earth; Kasson Montonville

**MISSOURI:** Aurora; Bronaugh; Couch; Crane R. III; Exeter; Greenfield; Koshkonong; Licking; Nevada; Norborne; North-western; Schuyler R-1; Union

**NEBRASKA:** Battle Creek; Hartington; Kimball; Leigh; Lewiston; Loup City; Newman Grove; Scribner-Snyder; Wauneta-Palisade

**NEVADA:** Diamond Mountain

**NORTH DAKOTA:** Park River; Northwood; Jamestown

**OHIO:** Amanda-Clearcreek; Blanchester; Pickaway Ross; Vantage JVS; Warren

**OKLAHOMA:** Alex; Broken Arrow; Calvin; Canton; Cashion; Fort Gibson; Freedom; Grandfield; Hardesty; Jenks; Sapulpa; Sayre; Tecumseh; Verden; Sulphur

**OREGON:** Perrydale

**PENNSYLVANIA:** Greenwood; West Greene

## SOUTH DAKOTA:

Alcester-Hudson; Colman-Egan; Harrisburg; Lake Preston; Lemmon; Miller; Parker; West Central

## TEXAS:

Academy; Aledo; Arlington-Martin; Athens High School; Banquete; Bellevue ISD; Big Sandy; Bland; Bremond; Bryan; Buckholts ISD; Cameron Yoe; Caney Creek; Channelview; Chillicothe; Cisco; Clear Brook; Clear Creek; Clear Lake; Clyde; Columbus; Conroe; Crowley; DeSoto; Dodd City; Edgewood; Electra; Elkins; Falls City; Florence; Fruitvale; Glen Rose; Greenville; Groesbeck; Hallettsville; Harlingen; Harrold; Hempstead; Hull-Daisetta; Huntsville; Iowa Park; Killen/ Ellison; Kirbyville; Kountze; Lewisville; Marble Falls; Marcus; Martins Mill; Mary Carroll; McCullough; McKinney; Mexia; Miami; Mineral Wells; Morton; Motley County; Normangee; Pilot Point; Plano East; Pleasanton; Quinlan; Riesel; Rotan; Rusk; Sealy; Snyder; Stamford; Sulphur Bluff ISD; Textline; Tolar; Weimar; Willis

**VIRGINIA:** Dinwiddie Co.; Fauquier

**WASHINGTON:** Zillah

**WISCONSIN:** Alma; Alma Center - Lincoln; Argyle; Boyceville; Cadott; Colfax; Cornell; Durand; Fall Creek; Gillett; Green Bay East; Green Bay Preble; Holmen; Menomonie; New Glarus; Osseo Fairchild; Pulaski; Stanley Boyd; Sun Prairie; Waupaca; Weyauwega-Fremont; Reedsburg; Elkhart Lake; Stoughton



Members of the Courtesy Corps provided valuable service to convention visitors and served in a variety of capacities, from stuffing envelopes to serving meals at FFA functions.





# Business

Delegates representing the diversity of FFA experience journeyed to Kansas City early to be the voice of the membership on issues of FFA policy. Their input on topics ranging from student image and community interaction to new products and programs was the focus of Wednesday's main business session.

After dispensing with the roll call, treasurer's report and other introductory matters, discussion proceeded to the committee reports, which contained delegates' recommendations to the National FFA Board of Directors. A number of measures endorsed by the delegates embraced the growing need for technology and diversity within the organization, while others sought to improve career opportunities for members.

The Internet was a hot topic among the delegates, and each committee's report suggested a new use. Links to the FFA homepage from those of sponsors and other partners was one of several recommendations of the Partner Development Committee. The Leadership and Personal Development Committee endorsed distributing more FFA homepage business cards,

including their placement in new FFA jackets, to promote Internet use and awareness among members. In addition, the establishment of chat rooms devoted to international agriculture as well as state and national FFA were suggested by several committees.

The Agricultural Education Trends Committee suggested developing an urban-rural exchange program for first-year agriculture students to acquaint them with alternative perspectives. Chapter exchange programs were advocated by the Membership Recruitment and Participation Committee as a way to promote diversity. Leadership and Personal Development had similar ideas, recommending programs for high school students to work with junior high and middle school students, as well as a national exchange program between states.

The subject of cultural diversity was addressed with several recommendations. Membership Recruitment and Participation suggested printing selected

FFA materials in Spanish in addition to current bilingual forms. Leadership and Personal Development advocated several approaches, including cultural diversity workshops.

In addition to suggestions calling for new career development events, members discussed reevaluating others to reflect more realistic situations. They also upheld the value of official dress in promoting

FFA's public image, and considered a drug, alcohol and tobacco prevention campaign to meet the organization's obligations to community involvement. In all, dozens of new ideas were approved by the delegates in hopes of fostering motivation, opportunities and learning among FFA members.



*Iowa delegate Thomas Goodhue joins in the discussion of committee reports during Wednesday morning's business session. Observation of proper parliamentary procedure allows a fair exchange of ideas and is the hallmark of any FFA business session.*



*Michael Stephenson, a delegate from Missouri, leads discussion during the Membership Recruitment and Participation committee meeting.*





# Official Delegates

**ALABAMA:** Carson Brown, Dexter Curry, Jeanie Edwards, Jennifer Dawn Edwards, Jonathan Eubanks, Josh Henderson, Lauren Holloway, Shay Jones, Leigh Kelley, Dustin Kittle, Vanessa Kretzschmar, Eric Lonjak, Laina McWhorter, Nick Mitchell, Melissa Oates, Matt Parnell, Christine Simmer, Bryce Alan Ulrich

**ALASKA:** Lori Kenley, Michael Jo Mandulak

**ARIZONA:** Michael Fitterer, Daniel Foster, Cheri Haught, Amanda Moran, Dallas Wilkins

**ARKANSAS:** Brandon Bailey, Morris Crill, Walter Daniel, Samantha Easley, Josh Hawkins, Gabriel Heatherly, Justin Newman, Adam Nichols, Jennifer Lynn Reynolds, Amanda Sands, Aaron Treat, Wendie Wallis, Devin Wisinger, Sheri Youngblood

**CALIFORNIA:** Matt Archer, Lynelle Bosworth, Emily Brinegar, Angela Browning, Megan Busby, Nicholas Diaz, Frances Echeverria, Lesa Eidman, Andrea Elliott, Mandy Foreman, Nick Garcia, James Garner, Melissa Gomes, Nate Green, Ryan Grenier, Tracy Haas, Summer Lynn Hackett, Amanda Hazan, Katie Howell, Krista Jimenez, Janice Lohse, Megan Loveridge, Kevin Luiz, Chris Madsen, Kevin Mathy, Martin Mattila, John Paasch, Luke Parnell, Jake

Parnell, Christopher Pelham, Stephanie Powers, Jimmy Reed, Annie Reyes, Steven Schohr, Katrina Smith, Traci Soares, Sharlene Swaim, Joshua Taylor, Greg Van Dyke, Jennifer Van Train, Justin White, Josh White, Lindsay Wilmeth

**COLORADO:** Latta Cassie, Christian Geu, Justin Himm, Quentin Smith, Shelby Wertz

**CONNECTICUT:** David E. Haversat, Cynthia Teixeira

**DELAWARE:** Robert W. Proud, Rebecca Voorhees, Terri Warren

**FLORIDA:** Brent Addison, Ben Butler, Ryan Ellerbe, Casey Ferguson, April Harris, Dusty Holley, Barrett Keene, Jerrett Pigott, Luci Rogers, Michael Rovella, Peggy Rudser, Abby Sameck, Jennifer Strickland, Chris Vitelli

**GEORGIA:** Richard Boatwright, Matt Chambliss, Amy Day, Anna Gilstrap, Brent Gilstrap, Matt Griffin, Blake Kessler, Sally Mason, Carol L. Spruill, Jenny Tankersley, Jennifer Thompson, Jeff Wilson

**HAWAII:** Helena Al-Ikubaisi, Filamer Ganir

**IDAHO:** Ellen Downing, Jamie Hassakis, Laban Molsee, Elizabeth Quesnell, Pam Ritchie, Amber Smyer

**ILLINOIS:** Parker Bane, Jennifer Bare, Stacey Dallam, Jeanna Ebert, Jay Harris, Stephen Leavell, Tim McDermott, Breanne Nelson, Nate Olson, Jenny Schaefer, Leah Schlee, Brandon Tate, Matthew M. Wells, Jessica Wemsing

**INDIANA:** Mike Caffee, Lori L. Kohlhaugen, Chris McCutchan, Katie Riley, Doug Sherwood, Lesley Taulman, Lillian Wafford, Alyssa Webb, Ryan West

**IOWA:** Lisa E. Ahrens, Kathleen Block, Matthew R. Chizek, Laurie Denniston, Scott Fischer, Thomas Goodhue, Mary Hardy, Scott Johnson, Brian Ohorilko, Robin Simmons, Grant Woodley

**KANSAS:** Emily N. Belton, Dustin deBoer, Cory Epler, Steve Hall, Kerry Priest, Jill Stafford

**LOUISIANA:** Brandon D. Bollich, Nicholas Cole, Max Fontenot, Shelly Fontenot, Barret Hargrave, Holly LaCombe, Ashley Renee LeBouef, Erica Loupe, Lora Ann Smith, Erika Thompson

**MAINE:** Nicholas T. McCrum, Ryan Shaw

**MARYLAND:** Gary Lee Bassler, Kara Kochis, David E. Smith

**MASSACHUSETTS:** Melissa S. Lueky, Jennie B. Nelson, Sarah Sneed

**MICHIGAN:** Darron M. Birchmeier, Shari Grieser, Kandi Kuchar, Nick Ladd, Brian Matthew Preston, Leslie Siefka

**MINNESOTA:** Noah Barka, Betsy Bianchi, Natasha Cronen, Tammy Gilland, Jill Guggisberg, John Wayne



*Delegates to the national convention engage in lively debate during the official business sessions. Susana Vargas speaks up during a session on behalf of the Puerto Rico association.*

**KENTUCKY:** Jon Adams, Ryan Bivens, Brad Brammell, John M. Chaliff, J.D. Gentry, Matthew Ingram, Matthew London, Raven McMaine, Robin Rhea, Lee Sisk, Robert E. Todd, Clay Wells, Ryan Williams

Roberts, Leah Schliep, Kelly Schmidt

**MISSISSIPPI:** Adam Coker, Amanda Coleman, Sissy Greer, Jason Morris, Jon M. Morris, Courtney Scoggin, Cameron C.A. Surrence



**MISSOURI:** Dan Arnsperger, Travis Belt, Allison Cadle, Ty Crain, Wayne Elkins, Sally A. Greene, Tony D. Hancock, Brian Heuring, Heather Hoffmeister, Christine Long, Joey Lysinger, Kyle Malter, Katie McWilliams, Nikki Melton, Eric Eugene Roller, Andrea Schweizer, Michael Stephenson

**MONTANA:** Jim Knight, Kendra Milburn, Jeff Miller, Mike Tuszyński Jr.

**NEBRASKA:** Christopher Arnold, Julie Nuss, Sara Rasmussen, Matt Rasmussen, Matthew Rutt, Eric Schilling, Julia Soukup

**NEVADA:** Kirt Bowman, Katie Dawn Klein, Heather Riggins

**NEW HAMPSHIRE:** Elizabeth Kaiser, Muria E. Nelson, Elizabeth Richardson

**NEW JERSEY:** Alecia A. Chris, Bernard J. Kelly, Michelle K. Maile

**NEW MEXICO:** Erin Eileen Morrow, Shyanne Peterson, Kim Ray, Christopher Scott, Andy L. Smith

**NEW YORK:** Katie Bear, Andrew Campbell, Robert Chapin, Tiffany Drape, Marcy Quackenbush

**NORTH CAROLINA:** Kevin Bradley, J.D. Chambers, Amber Drees, Aaron L. Fleming, Allen Godwin, Michael Hall, Sterlina Henson, Misty Lambert, Sara Lane, Alicia Markham, Phillip McLain, Elizabeth Tolley

**NORTH DAKOTA:** Lorissa Benson, Erica Knell, Jessica Larson, Justin M. Maddock, Jon S. Solberg, William F. White III

**OHIO:** Elizabeth Altstaetter, Emily Buxton, Joel Coffman, Nathan Cronkleton, Greg Dague, Abby Henry, Sue Hoop, Darrin Karcher, Kristi Kress, Brandon Lawwill, Jason Oman, Janice Poorman, Amy Poth, Cindy Schroeder, Joe Shultz, Melissa Slamcik, Gary Small, Heather Vaubel, Josh Walters, Kellie Warner

**OKLAHOMA:** Kathy Banks, Jeremy Brashears, Josh Brecheen, Travis Brorsen, Phillip Cowley, Wayne Elder, John K. Green, Ryan Hunt, Nicole Jarrell, Chase Kornegay, John Lastly, Adam McClain, David Mosburg, Cody Murphy, Amber N. Murry, Michael Pettijohn, LaRena Smith, Rosslyn Spencer, Shane Stephens, Stephanie Turner, Kimberly White

**OREGON:** Heath A. Curtiss, Ryan Maxson, Keith P. Nantz, Chris Pahl, Kristine Reid, Kurt Romans

**PENNSYLVANIA:** Bobbie Jo Kaufman, Phil Eby, Jeremy Hackenberg, Josh Heeter, Joy Hess, Nicki Over, Dale Thomas Jr., Jessica Whiting, Joanna Wilson

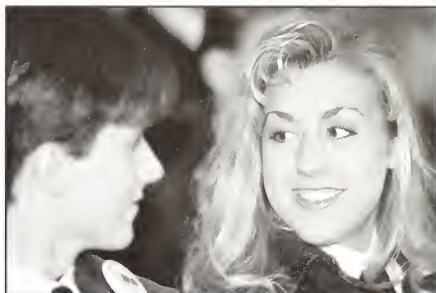
**PUERTO RICO:** Nurian Badillo, Marisel San Miguel, Susana Vargas-Pinto, Andres Villalobos-Salgado

**RHODE ISLAND:** Amy Fountain, Devin Wilcox

**SOUTH CAROLINA:** Ronnie Burdette, Christopher G. Cothran, Paul Crawford, Kimberly Green, Donald Williams

**SOUTH DAKOTA:** Ryan Echler, Barry Jacobson, Michael Leheska, Jonathon F. Minor, Jenny Titus

**TENNESSEE:** Michelle Baskin, Felicia Bryant,



*Many delegates like Chase Kornegay and Nicole Jarrell from Oklahoma, found time for pleasant conversation as well as discussion of important issues.*

Michael Davis, Jacob Jackson Hubbell, Jarrod Jordan, Kelly Kail, C.J. Kersey, Valerie Ogilvie, Kelli Shea Ross, Julie Shew, Kristy Taylor, James Waldrop

D. Twitchell, Michael Wilson

**VERMONT:** April Jean Purinton, Tessa Tibbits

**VIRGIN ISLANDS:** Tasahil Khalil, Monique Marlin

**VIRGINIA:** Anne Adkerson, Steven Bowman, Wes Fertig, Ben Grove, Lynnette Hall, Trey Keyser, Carrie Monger, Willie Morris, Jason Roller, Erin Sill, Sarah Tusing

**WASHINGTON:** Andrew Cockle, LeAnne Crossland, Danika Gwinn, Jaime Hinton, Nathanael Wood

**WEST VIRGINIA:** David Boice, Suzanne Cummings, Kathy Duffield, Stephanie McGee, Candace Minear

**WISCONSIN:** Joel Bernhard, Amy Bollinger, Sam Cooke, Jeremiah Fredrickson, Arlaina Gonske, Kristin Haakenson, Mary Handrich, Becky Harvey, Nick Hemling, Susan Long, Damon Meyer, Angie Mueller, Nathan Russell, Jill Schaffner, Jared Schaffner

**WYOMING:** Gene Corson, Danielle Marie Cox, Peter Lammers, Jeff Mooney, Becki Sheldon

**UTAH:** Benjamin Ray Adams, Kerry Greenhalgh, Rachael Porter, Andrienne







# Agricultural Education Trends

## We recommend that the FFA:

### Today's Youth Are Tomorrow's Leaders

1. Reconstruct the PALS program to include shorter-term programs, better education of advisors, publicity through *FFA New Horizons* and the *Official FFA Manual*, and award recognition.
2. Create a Made For Excellence/Leadership Program for eighth grade and younger students.
3. Make recruitment videos and FFA member presentations more available to junior high/middle school teachers and also create and distribute to parents an informational FFA packet/video.
4. Educate administrators about FFA, potential leadership classes, job shadow programs, and agriculture work experience. Send these individuals invitations to the state and national conventions.
5. Establish an urban-to-rural exchange program for first-year agriculture students.

### Blending Agriculture and Technology in the Classroom

1. Have video broadcasting of the national convention on the Internet.
2. Develop an interactive technology area as part of the career show.
3. Emphasize technology in appropriate career development events (CDE).
4. Promote receiving science credits for agriculture classes.
5. Add a section on technology in Local Program Success.
6. Add a technology site to the FFA homepage.

### Obstacles with Agriculture Teachers

1. Provide software programs and resources for independent study programs in agricultural education which would satisfy requirements for FFA membership.
2. Provide software which would enable advisors/instructors to keep accurate records of membership, fundraisers, etc.
3. Investigate multiple-year membership options as well as computer roster options.
4. Develop a National Collegiate FFA Association to prepare future agricultural education instructors.
5. Add an Agricultural Education CDE that would include preparing and presenting lesson plans in a mock classroom situation.
6. Suggest an Agricultural Education Co-op program to fulfill Co-op requirements.
7. Compile informative materials on agricultural education careers which would include facts such as regional salaries, job availability, etc., to be sent to potential agriculture instructors. Also have this information available through a business reply card in *FFA New Horizons* and the FFA homepage.

### Membership Diversity

1. Add the following career development events at the national level: showmanship, computers, soil conservation, environmental, job interview, agricultural education, and leadership. The leadership CDE would include preparing presentations on recruitment, goal setting, administrative visits, etc.

2. Recognize Oklahoma Land Use/Homesite/Range CDE winners on the national convention stage.
3. Add the following question to the Creed Speaking CDE, "What is your personal interpretation of the creed?"
4. Have the national FFA staff promote unique agriculture courses stated on the roster of class information to give other teachers ideas.
5. Implement a teachers' computer education inservice.
6. Publicize unique agricultural education classes in *FFA New Horizons*, *Making A Difference*, and the national FFA homepage.
7. Publish informational pamphlets/newsletters with job opportunities in the agricultural industry.
8. Add aquaculture and safety proficiency awards.
9. Publish an informational brochure about the benefits of agricultural education and the FFA to be sent to guidance counselors and administration.
10. Expand the "Growing the Presence..." urban initiative program to include other urban areas.
11. Establish a pre-high school camp at the state level to target students not aware of the FFA.
12. Establish an Ethnic Diversity Involvement Award.
13. Begin the "What is..." campaign that works to improve FFA's image. This campaign should include television and radio spots.

### Respectfully submitted,

Amy Bollinger, WI (Chair)  
Lesley Taulman, IN (Vice Chair)  
Andrew Campbell, NY  
Justin Maddock, ND  
Lillian Wafford, IN  
Leslie Siefka, MI  
Clifton Shearrer, TX  
Christopher Scott, NM  
C.J. Kersey, TN  
Dusty Holley, FL  
Nick Hemling, WI  
Andrea Elliott, CA  
Carson Brown, AL  
Travis Brorsen, OK  
Joy Hess, PA  
Katie Klein, NV  
Todd Ward, TX  
Robin Simmons, IA  
Nichole Murry, OK  
Jason Morris, MS  
Eric Lonjak, AL  
Sara Lane, NC  
Krista Jimenez, CA  
Matt Chambliss, GA

Shay Bluntzer, TX  
Lori Kenley, AK  
Danielle Cox, WY  
Stephanie Powers, CA  
Heather Hoffmeister, MO  
Jared Harrell, TX  
Lynnette Hall, VA  
J.D. Gentry, KY  
Ellen Downing, ID  
Morris Crill, AR  
Joel Coffman, OH  
Bobbie Jo Cauffman, PA  
Elizabeth Kaiser, NH  
Andres Villalobos-Salgado, PR  
Sheri Youngblood, AR  
Jon White, CA  
Janice Poorman, OH  
Breanne Nelson, IL  
Jimmy Loveday, TX  
Barret Hargrave, LA  
Suzanne Cummings, WV  
Paul Crawford, SC  
Christopher Arnold, NE



# Chapter Activities



## We recommend that the FFA:

### Healthy Lifestyles

1. Feature an article in each *FFA New Horizons* focusing on healthy lifestyles and incorporate a healthy lifestyles corner with tips for FFA members.
2. Encourage teachers to focus on safety issues facing the students in their area.
3. Develop a healthy lifestyles site on the FFA homepage and link to/from other awareness organizations.
4. Develop an "FFA Say No" campaign, to include the following:
  - a) A "Top 10 Reasons to Say No" T-shirt
  - b) Superstar promotions
  - c) Channel one segments
  - d) Promotion day during National FFA Week
5. Incorporate sessions dealing with healthy lifestyles into the B.L.A.S.T. Off program.
6. Develop a national philanthropy program dealing with healthy lifestyles.



Anne Adkerson, Virginia FFA Association reporter, leads a group discussion during a work session of the Membership Recruitment Committee.

### Positive Learning Environment

1. Develop a motivational conference outline for agricultural education teachers to be made available to state staff and state officers.
2. Encourage continued modifications to all chapter programs sponsored by the National FFA Organization.
3. Develop a new chapter/ new advisor complementary start-up kit which includes room decorations and activity ideas.

### Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Wells, IL (Chair)  
Kellie Warner, OH (Vice Chair)  
Jeanie Edwards, AL  
Jennifer Edwards, AL  
Nick Mitchell, AL  
Samantha Easley, AR  
Lynelle Bosworth, CA  
Nick Garcia, CA  
Megan Loveridge, CA  
Annie Reyes, CA  
Lindsay Wilmeth, CA  
Shelby Wertz, CO

Jerrett Pigott, FL  
Brent Gilstrap, GA  
Pam Ritchie, ID  
Jenny Schaefer, IL  
Ryan West, IN  
Cory Epler, KS  
Robin Rhea, KY  
Erica Loupe, LA  
Betsy Bianchi, MN  
Phillip McLain, NC  
Sara Rasmussen, NE  
Erin Morrow, NM

### Community Interaction

1. Create a program on the state and national level to recognize outstanding communities for their support of agricultural education and FFA.
2. Send a sample of all materials to state officers annually.
3. Create a video consisting of successful examples of chapters with PALS, Food For America, and Partners for a Safer Community.
4. Recommend the use of public relations software which includes sponsor recognition certificates and pre-published news releases.
5. Create guidelines for chapter members to use for visits to local businesses.
6. Promote the distribution of FFA publications and *FFA New Horizons* by chapters to the community.

### Chapter Recognition

1. At the state level, verify by observation or interview the information presented on Form I and Form II of National Chapter Award applications.
2. Include a list of all CDEs and proficiency awards in *FFA New Horizons*.
3. Include more recognition of National Chapter Award winners in *FFA New Horizons*.

4. Send a copy of Chapter Innovators to all state officers.
5. Create a video and an information packet to assist advisors in filling out award applications.

Heather Riggins, NV  
Tiffany Drape, NY  
Greg Dague, OH  
Cindy Schroeder, OH  
Wayne Elder, OK  
Rosslyn Spencer, OK  
Jeremy Hackenburg, PA  
Devon Wilcox, RI  
Ryan Eichler, SD  
Jacob Hubbell, TN  
Julie Shaw, TN  
Taylor Cotton, TX

Mandy Jackson, TX  
Ryan Mott, TX  
Angie Sims, TX  
Joanna White, TX  
Willie Morris, VA  
Jason Roller, VA  
Damon Meyer, WI  
Candace Minear, WV





# Career Success

We recommend that the FFA:

## Proficiency Awards and American FFA Degrees

1. Create a "frequently asked questions" fact page on the American FFA Degree and proficiency awards to be readily available to students through FFA *New Horizons*, Internet, and to include with the award applications.
2. Create one form of the American FFA Degree application and a standard record book that directly correlates with the American FFA Degree and the proficiency awards applications.
3. Re-evaluate the proficiency award areas, particularly breaking down Specialty Animal Production into sub-categories.
4. That the task force on proficiency awards and American FFA Degree develop a third method based solely on unpaid hours rather than on earnings and investments.
5. That the task force on proficiency awards and American FFA Degrees expand the Stars of America program to include Star Environmentalists.
6. That the task force on proficiency awards and American FFA Degrees re-evaluate the essay questions section on those applications and include a section which allows students to describe their current SAE programs.

## Innovations

1. Develop a CDE for students considering a career in agricultural education to cover areas such as developing lesson plans and presenting to interactive classroom.
2. Develop a CDE for Environmental Science to include Aquaculture and Wildlife & Natural Resource Management.
3. Develop a CDE involving knowledge of field/crop management, covering soil quality, type, fertilizers and pest management.
4. Develop a CDE for Agricultural Engineering and Landscape Design using computer programming.
5. Develop a CDE for Veterinary Science using practical applications in diagnosis, administration and dissection.

## Ways To Promote Career Success

1. Provide workshops during national convention on new CDEs and proficiency applications.
2. Have national staff promote CDEs at NLCSO, B.L.A.S.T. Off and through the state officer newsletter.
3. Have proficiency applications available on the Internet and direct students to the handbook for more information.
4. Have a video camera at national CDE events so they may be viewed in a separate room.
5. Develop a CDE section in FFA *New Horizons* to promote events and inform members.
6. Develop a video series about each CDE and make it available to states.
7. Develop a link from the FFA homepage to businesses offering internships.
8. Create more posters to inform members and promote CDEs.

## CDE Development

1. Reschedule CDE events so the competitors may fully participate in national convention.
2. That CDE Advisory Committee explore the possibilities of specializing the Agriculture Mechanics CDE.
3. Expanding of breeds utilized and performance classes in the Equine Science CDE.
4. Ensure uniform work sites within each CDE, to establish equality among the contestants.
5. Establish practice rounds for each national CDE.
6. Parliamentary Procedure Task Force to investigate ways for interstate competition instead of rehearsed national standards, to incorporate "real world" practices.

## Respectfully submitted,

Chris Madsen, CA (Chair)  
Chris Cothran, SC (Vice Chair)  
J.J. Akin, TX  
Matt Archer, CA  
Noah Barka, MN  
Ben Butler, FL  
Richard Callender, TX  
Bob Chapin, NY  
Gene Corson, WY  
Phillip Cowley, OK  
Nathan Cronkleton, OH  
Dexter Curry, AL  
Trey Daniel, AR  
Phil Eby, PA  
Mandy Foreman, CA  
Amy Fountain, RI  
Anna Gilstrap, GA  
Jamie Hassakis, ID  
Brandon Hill, TX  
Barrett Keene, FL  
Holly LaCombe, LA  
Stephen Leavell, IL  
Janice Lohse, CA

Christine Long, WI  
Susan Long, WI  
Alicia Markham, NC  
Will Mayfield, TX  
Stephen McGee, WV  
Raven McMaine, KY  
Laina McWhorter, AL  
Carrie Monger, VA  
Julie Nuss, NE  
Valerie Ogilvie, TN  
Nate Olson, IL  
Michael Pettijohn, OK  
Amy Poth, OH  
Jimmy Reed, CA  
Courtney Scoggin, MS  
Vade Siebman, TX  
David Smith, MD  
Bryce Ulrich, AL  
Alyssa Webb, IN  
April Westbrook, TX  
Justin White, CA  
Donald Williams, SC  
Grant Woodley, IA



For FFA members, such as John Blachford (right), attending the career show offered many opportunities to "link up" with Internet technology and career possibilities.



# Communications and Public Relations



## We recommend that the FFA:

### Public Image

1. Develop a targeted media relations campaign that would use public service announcements, placement of news articles in high profile publications and development of paid local and national advertising for the FFA.
2. Develop a workshop to be given at the Made For Excellence conference and Washington Leadership Conference that teaches members how to communicate effectively with the general public about what FFA is and the diversity of the agriculture industry.
3. Expand the Local Program Success marketing and communication components to provide more access to these tools and to continue to provide training to all teachers and members at state conventions. State associations should receive further, more specific training.
4. Develop non-agricultural business and vocational student organization links on the Internet to and from the FFA homepage, in order to introduce the non-agricultural public to the FFA and FFA members to non-agricultural entities.

### Communications

1. Create new, fun, educational recruitment videos for seventh and eighth graders.
2. Develop a "help" handbook, similar to Local Program Success, for chapter and state officers.
3. Develop informational software to teach state associations how to provide a state convention news room and a state association website. Training could occur at NLC/SCO.

### Student Image

1. Develop a middle school / junior high program that excites, informs and recruits all students, using the ideas expressed in FFA's mission statement.



One of the most important functions of official convention delegates is to discuss and act upon issues relating to the operation and image of the national organization. Representatives from the North Carolina FFA Association engage in an active debate during a delegate committee session.

2. National FFA Foundation seek funding to develop a "how to" handbook to help states and chapters set up promotional booths about the image and opportunities of the FFA for a variety of targeted audiences. These handbooks would be provided to all chapters and state associations.
3. List specific national events where official dress is required in the *Official FFA Manual* and recommend that states do the same.
4. Provide guidelines defining unified casual dress when official dress is not appropriate or required.
5. Establish a review process to gather student feedback prior to mass release on promotional programs which are targeted toward students.

### Advisors/Sponsors/Partners

1. Create a resource package with which the national organization, state associations and FFA chapters can communicate the purpose and diversity of the FFA to sponsors and partners.
2. Develop a more effective communication system with advisors by reducing the volume of information and mailings sent to them through timely targeted delivery; possibly by using the *FFA Advisors Making a Difference* publication.
3. Create a feature article in *FFA New Horizons* that highlights a sponsor and recognizes their contributions to the FFA.
4. Extend Local Program Success so that state associations submit reports of their business and industry tours to the national organization, which may be published and distributed as guidelines or best practices for business and industry interaction at all levels of FFA.

### Respectfully submitted,

Joe Shultz, OH (Chair)  
J.D. Chambers, NC (Vice Chair)  
Ben Adams, UT  
Quentin Smith, CO  
Cynthia Teixeira, CT  
Ryan Shaw, ME  
Matthew Chizek, IA  
Rebecca Voorhees, DE  
Andy Cockle, WA  
Michael Jo Mandulak, AK  
Jonathan Eubanks, AL  
Melissa Oates, AL  
Josh Hawkins, AK  
Emily Brinegar, CA  
James Garner, CA  
Kevin Luiz, CA  
Steven Schohr, CA  
Cassie Lalta, CO  
Luci Rogers, FL  
Matt Griffin, GA  
Amber Smyer, ID  
Leah Schlee, IL  
Kathleen Block, IA  
Steve Hall, KA

Lee Sisk, KY  
Lora Ann Smith, LA  
Natasha Cronen, MN  
Dan Arnsperger, MO  
Kyle Malter, MO  
Matthew Rutt, NE  
Marcy Quackenbush, NY  
Elizabeth Tolley, NC  
Abby Henry, OH  
Melissa Slamcik, OH  
J.K. Green, OK  
Shane Stephens, OK  
Josh Heeter, PA  
Barry Jacobson, SD  
Sarah Jenke, TX  
Kristy Taylor, TN  
Nathan Daniels, TX  
Mandy Pigg, TX  
Jarred Smith, TX  
Cole Young, TX  
Erin Sill, VA  
Joel Bernhard, WI  
Angie Mueller, WI





# Leadership and Personal Development

## We recommend that the FFA:

### Evaluations of Current Programs

1. Make B.L.A.S.T. Off available to all states and schedule them before NLCOS.
2. Continue to develop a specific audience for MFE and WLC to enhance personal growth.
3. Make printed materials from NLCOS and B.L.A.S.T. Off more available to state officers.
4. Make available an international experience information and tools packet for state officers to present at the state level.

### Diversity in Leadership and Personal Development

1. Promote a clear understanding of the diversity in cultural backgrounds through state staff attending cultural diversity workshops in order to share information with advisors and members. They should hold workshops at already existing conferences like NLCOS, WLC, and Greenhand motivational programs.
2. Create publications for different age groups and people of all backgrounds to develop awareness of the variety of leadership programs.

### New Program Development

1. Develop chapter visit lesson plans to be available to state officers concerning international exchange programs, scholarship opportunities, conferences, conventions and camps.
2. Develop a chapter improvement conference put on by national staff for chapter members.
3. Create an agricultural issues link within the FFA website.
4. Create a state-to-state national exchange program.
5. Develop a program for juniors and seniors in high school to work with junior high/middle school students, freshmen and Greenhands as junior advisors.
6. Develop an international agriculture chat room on the Internet.

### Marketing of Leadership Programs

1. Develop posters with tear-off postcards for international, leadership and personal growth programs available to students.
2. Create postcards addressed to chapter presidents regarding international, leadership and personal growth programs.
3. Develop booths and workshops for state conventions on international, leadership and personal growth programs.
4. Develop a video and information packet on all programs sponsored by FFA to be sent to state conventions and given to newly elected officers.
5. Develop a full-page ad to be sent to all agricultural magazines on international, leadership and personal growth programs.
6. Develop brochures more specific than the "FFA Is..." brochure, explaining international, leadership and personal growth

programs to send to agribusinesses. The brochure should also include how FFA and its members will benefit the business in the future.

7. Promote Internet use and awareness by distributing more FFA homepage business cards. For example, send cards to state associations, chapter presidents, chapter advisors and put cards in each new FFA jacket.

### Respectfully submitted,

LaRena Smith, OK (Chair)  
 Laban Molsee, ID (Vice-Chair)  
 Lauren Holloway, AL  
 Christine Simmer, AL  
 Adam Nichols, AR  
 Nate Green, CA  
 Martin Matilla, CA  
 Traci Soares, CA  
 Peggy Rudser, FL  
 Sally Mason, GA  
 Jennifer Bare, IL  
 Jessica Wernsing, IL  
 Scott Fischer, IA  
 Jill Stafford, KS  
 Clay Wells, KY  
 Kara Kochis, MD  
 Jill Guggisberg, MN  
 Leah Schliep, MN  
 Allison Cadle, MO  
 Sally A. Greene, MO  
 Nikki Melton, MO  
 Julia Soukup, NE  
 Kirt Bowman, NV

Muria E. Nelson, NH  
 Katie Bear, NY  
 Amber Drees, NC  
 Erica Knell, ND  
 Darrin Karcher, OH  
 Heather Vaubel, OH  
 Nicole Jarrell, OK  
 Kimberly White, OK  
 Jessica Whiting, PA  
 Kimberly Green, SC  
 Michelle Baskin, TN  
 Tony Adkins, TX  
 Jamie Ellis, TX  
 Kevin John, TX  
 Brice Redwin, TX  
 Scott Stedje, TX  
 Andrienne D. Twitchell, UT  
 Tasahil Khalil, VI  
 Melissa Ney, WA  
 Danika Gwinn, WA  
 Jeremaih Fredrickson, WI  
 Jared Schaffner, WI  
 Jill Schaffner, WI



*PALS (Partners in Active Learning Support) is a mentoring program pairing FFA members with at-risk youth. Through participation in the program, members enhance interpersonal communication skills and build important relationships.*



# Marketing and Merchandising



## We recommend that the FFA:

### Customer Relations

1. Create a Ventures advertisement in *FFA New Horizons* which includes all ordering options, displays top sale products, and includes a tear-out postcard for ordering the catalog.
2. Make Ventures catalogs more accessible at MFE, WLC and state conventions.
3. Designate a specific site on the FFA homepage to order the Ventures catalog.

### Product Evaluation

1. Explore the option of adding a third loop to the FFA jacket to accommodate the 15- and 20-inch chains.
2. Evaluate the overall quality of the finished FFA jacket, paying attention to problems with loose strings, zipper quality, function and inconsistent lettering.
3. Enlarge the spacing on order forms for personalization purposes.
4. Explore the option of providing gender-specific clothing.
5. Be conscious of the increasing prices of products.
6. Provide a wider choice of colors for banquet supplies other than blue.
7. Provide a list to the Marketing and Merchandising Committee of Supply Service product sales and costs for each item.

### Product Development

1. Create an FFA activities book that includes "eye openers," activities and workshop ideas.
2. Create an FFA trivia game and history book.
3. Create an FFA college career manual which includes a list of Top 10 agricultural colleges and careers.
4. Create an FFA "Franklin" planner with engraved name plates.
5. Create a foreign language catalog for the Spanish speaking population.
6. Create inspirational posters, pens and pins based on "Successories" with motivational quotes and pictures.
7. Create a banquet kit which includes all materials necessary for a chapter banquet.
8. Create office supplies consisting of rubber stamps, personal checks and personal address labels with the emblem on it.
9. Create a planning calendar with a picture of the national officers on it.
10. Create Magic Eye posters which include a hidden FFA emblem image.
11. Create a full-color FFA emblem in clip art.
12. Create FFA Justin boots that include the Lacer and Roper styles and have the FFA emblem embroidered on the side.
13. Create FFA T-shirts and sweatshirts including: "I'm a Future FFA member," "FFA Dad," "FFA Grandma," "FFA Grandpa," and FFA polo team shirts with personalized embroidery.
14. Create tasteful and appropriate FFA swim wear.
15. Create FFA sportswear including wind shorts and workout wear.
16. Create an FFA dress coat that is a trench coat style with an emblem on it.

17. Create FFA dress gloves.
18. Create an FFA ski cap/toboggan.
19. Create a shirt collar extender.
20. Create FFA hologram ties and advisor ties.
21. Create an FFA dress watch and sports watch.
22. Create Montana Silversmith earrings with the FFA emblem.
23. Create FFA buttons that say: "Kiss me...I'm an FFA member!"; "Have you hugged an FFA member today?" and "Love me...I'm an FFA member!"
24. Create "Oakley" style FFA sunglasses.
25. Create an FFA backpack.
26. Create thin FFA suspenders with button fasteners.
27. Create FFA state officer rings.
28. Create a flat, silver, raised emblem ring.
29. Create FFA toys including an FFA lamb "floppy friend," a larger variety of animal squeezies and an FFA hacksack.
30. Create modernized Christmas cards.
31. Create FFA linens including FFA sheets and pillow cases, throw pillows and stadium blankets.
32. Create an FFA beanbag chair.
33. Create an FFA directors chair that can be personalized.
34. Create an FFA desk lamp.
35. Create personalized mugs and glasses.
36. Create an FFA umbrella.
37. Create FFA window decals that are personalized with specific states.
38. Create an FFA handkerchief and bandana.
39. Create FFA lollipops.
40. Create an FFA limited edition toy tractor.
41. Create FFA golf balls.
42. Create FFA animal merchandise including show supplies and pet supplies.

### Marketing Strategies

1. Publish printouts, flyers, posters and condensed versions, such as pamphlets, of the Ventures catalog.
2. Host booths with catalogs or merchandise at state functions.
3. Create a better catalog layout emphasizing sale items to gain more attention, larger price displays; bulk buying options; more information on free services such as lettering and engraving; and a more strategic placing of all items, including new or hot items.
4. Publicize information about the sales store at national convention and possibly announce something about it at the convention meetings.
5. Create more options for Internet transactions and test Internet sales for official jackets.
6. Test direct withdrawals from bank accounts as a payment method.
7. Hold a contest with incentives for chapters to design a new Ventures catalog cover.
8. Create chapter incentives for volume Ventures purchases.
9. Furnish promotional packets, including a T-shirt, for state officers in order to provide members with information.





#### Respectfully submitted,

B.J. Kelly, NJ (Chair)  
 Emily Belton, KS (Vice Chair)  
 Shay Jones, AL  
 Jennifer Reynolds, AR  
 Amanda Sands, AR  
 Cheri Haught, AZ  
 Daniel Foster, AZ  
 Megan Busby, CA  
 Ryan Greiner, CA  
 Sharlene Swaim, CA  
 Terri Lynn Warren, DE  
 Abby Sameck, FL  
 Jenny Tankersley, GA  
 Thomas Goodhue, IA  
 Stacy Dallam, IL

Mike Caffee, IN  
 John Adams, KY  
 Matthew Ingram, KY  
 Ryan Williams, KY  
 Sarah Sneed, MA  
 Pete Lammers, MS  
 Ty Crain, MO  
 Andrea Schweizer, MO  
 Kendra Milburn, MT  
 Allen Godwin, NC  
 Jessica Larson, ND  
 Skip White, ND  
 Elizabeth Richardson, NH  
 Andy Smith, NM  
 Joshua Walters, OH  
 Kristi Kress, OH

John Lastdy, OK  
 Ryan Maxson, OR  
 Dale Thomas, PA  
 Joanna Wilson, PA  
 Susana Vargas, PR  
 Felicia Bryant, TN  
 Courtney Anderson, TX  
 Shane Elmore, TX  
 Leather Johnson, TX  
 Koby Reed, TX  
 Harla Stockwell, TX  
 Micheal Wilson, UT  
 Jamie Hinton, WA  
 Arlaine Gonske, WI  
 Jeff Mooney, WY

## Program of Activities

#### We recommend that the FFA:

1. Hold a meeting with all state staff, adult coordinators, committee chairs, committee vice chairs, sub-committee chairs and sub-committee vice chairs prior to the beginning of the delegate process to get acquainted and review facilitation skills.
2. Include a presentation on brainstorming in the delegate orientation meeting.
3. Ensure that all delegates are qualified and interested in the committee and sub-committee to which they are assigned.
4. Allow access to the recommendations of committees from the previous two years.
5. Require all members of the nominating committee to inform the chair of their respective programmatic committees of their change in responsibilities.
6. Include a meeting at State President's Conference for committee chairs and vice chairs.
7. Stress to all delegates the importance of making recommendations as opposed to working through the logistics of ideas.
8. Place a copy machine and additional computers in the delegate headquarters.

#### Respectfully submitted,

Brian Preston, MI (Chair)  
 Chris Madsen, CA  
 Matthew Wells, IL  
 Melissa Lukey, MA  
 Mike Tuszynski, MT  
 Bernard J. Kelly, NJ  
 Joe Shultz, OH  
 LaRena Smith, OK  
 Michael Leheska, SD  
 Amy Bollinger, WI



*Member involvement in all aspects of the organization is key to developing premier leadership potential. Spencer Clark concentrates as he participates in the National FFA Floriculture Career Development Event.*



# Membership Recruitment and Participation



## We recommend that the FFA:

### Retention and Participation

1. Create a packet to help establish new collegiate FFA chapters.
  2. Develop a focus for collegiate chapters by providing opportunities for involvement and further participation in the National FFA Organization.
  3. Develop and implement leadership conferences geared toward different levels of membership issues and needs.
  4. Provide further assistance to chapters in developing and implementing the Program of Activities (i.e. train state officers, video, and homepage).
  5. Increase member recognition through greater media exposure via a national newsletter, a reporter's disk and a television campaign.
  6. Promote SAE diversity throughout the membership.
  7. Encourage states to increase educational scholarship levels for individual CDE state award winners.
- 2020 and other futuristic activities mailed to agriculture teachers, agriculture professors, collegiate clubs and high school counselors.
  2. Encourage SAE programs through member and teacher interaction by enforcing mandatory SAE requirements.
  3. Reinstate MFE for advisors.
  4. Hold a state-wide symposium for agriculture teachers to share ideas.
  5. Begin state-to-state mentoring programs which would include a web site directory and e-mail addresses of agriculture teachers
  6. Create a calendar with pertinent dates for FFA as well as FFA fun facts.
  7. Send packets to advisors' home addresses.
  8. Support college programs such as Alpha Gamma Rho, Farmhouse, etc.

### Membership Recruitment

1. Change the appearance of materials to appeal to today's generation.
2. Create a national program administered within the state for prospective FFA members to promote FFA awareness and foster new membership.
3. Develop a packet to send to chapter presidents to assist with membership recruitment and FFA awareness including a letter from a national officer.
4. Continue and expand national media advertising using famous/successful past FFA members to appeal to America's youth, exhibit the wide range of interests and to promote the National FFA Organization.
5. Develop a sampler packet of recruitment materials available to state associations for use in their activities.
6. Create an FFA/agricultural education information network to be used as a recruitment tool via the Internet.

### Diversity

1. Promote the benefits of FFA to those with non-agricultural interests.
2. Publish articles in national FFA magazines highlighting the diversity in FFA.
3. Have a campaign promoting diversity through chapter exchange programs and recruitment packets to administrators and educators in schools and throughout the community.
4. Provide selected FFA materials in Spanish yet also provide main contests in English with Spanish materials available.
5. Promote recruitment in diversity over the Internet and provide a downloadable, pre-formatted newsletter template.

### Teacher Involvement and Motivation

1. Educate about Reinventing Agricultural Education for the Year 2020 program through information packets made available about

### Respectfully submitted,

Brian Preston, MI (Chair)  
Keith Nantz, OR (Vice Chair)  
Leigh Kelley, AL  
Amanda Moran, AZ  
Nicholas Diaz, CA  
Tracy Haas, CA  
Jake Parnell, CA  
Joshua Taylor, CA  
Brent Addison, FL  
Amanda Smith, FL  
Jennifer Thompson, GA  
Jeanna Ebert, IL  
Chris McCutchan, IN  
Mary Hardy, IA  
Dusty deBoer, KS  
Ryan Bivens, KY  
Brandon Bollich, LA  
Nicholas Cole, LA  
Shari Grieser, MI  
Kelly Schmidt, MN  
Jon Morris, MS  
Wayne Elkins, MO  
Michael Stephenson, MO

Michelle Maile, NJ  
Michael Hall, NC  
Jon Solberg, ND  
Brandon Lawwill, OH  
Kathy Banks, OK  
Chase Kornegay, OK  
Adam McClain, OK  
Chris Pahl, OR  
Nurain Badillo, PR  
Michael Davis, TN  
Sheryl Estes, TX  
Jeff Klose, TX  
Leah Reed, TX  
Michael Taylor, TX  
Kerry Greenhalgh, UT  
Anne Adkerson, VA  
Ben Grove, VA  
April Purinton, VT  
LeAnne Crossland, WA  
Nathan Wood, WA  
Kristin Haakenson, WI  
Becki Sheldon, WY





# Partner Development

**We recommend that the FFA:**

## **Partner Relations Subcommittee**

1. Educate students about the importance of partners and how to deal with them through training brochures and by incorporating partners training into WLC, NLC SO and SPC.
2. Develop a question and answer site on the FFA homepage concerning partners, along with a telephone hotline for the same purpose.
3. Develop a partners page in the *FFA New Horizons* magazine.
4. Include more extensive explanations of partners in the *Student Handbook* and *Official FFA Manual*.
5. Provide extensive list of existing FFA partners and what they do.
6. Increase sponsor recognition on all levels by sending national certificates to state and local sponsors.
7. Develop a partner information conference in conjunction with the national FFA convention to teach and inform partners about FFA.
8. Conduct a random sampling of past FFA members across the nation to evaluate the extent of benefits of agricultural education and FFA.

## **Partner Cooperation Subcommittee**

1. Create a program of presentations such as videos, Power Point, outlines and/or PSAs for members' use to portray the benefits of cooperating with partners. Four partner groups should be targeted: business (non-agricultural), agricultural business, general education and/or AERO groups.
2. Develop an insert for *FFA New Horizons* magazine targeted to the above four partner groups and send to specific partner representatives.
3. Expand the Agriculture Career Center web site to include a page which lists possible job shadowing and internship opportunities. This is to be an interactive page sorted by career areas and interests.

## **Resource Subcommittee**

1. Periodically publish and mail newsletters including a brief overview and statistical information to National School Board Association (NSBA), American School Counselor Association (ASCA), American Association of School Administrators (AASA), Vocational State Officers (VSO), and non-agricultural post secondary institutions.
2. Publish, mail and include on the FFA homepage an informative recruitment letter/pamphlet for parents of potential agricultural education students.
3. Coordinate and categorize by target audience partner development materials in the catalog.
4. Attempt to set up links to the FFA homepage from sponsors.
5. Attain sites from organizations such as NSBA, ASCA, AASA and VSO and link to the FFA homepage.
6. Include in state officer training how to use development materials at events such as NLC SO and B.L.A.S.T. Off in order to increase state alumni/partners.

7. Create a brochure for local chapters on partner development from page 59 out of the Blue Book for teachers.
8. Create national and state chat rooms, not message boards, on the Internet.
9. Designate one member of state officer teams to address partner development.

## **Member Awareness Subcommittee**

1. Mention partners in articles of *FFA New Horizons*, recognize their help throughout articles, not just at the end.
2. Include a "Star Partner" recognition section in *FFA New Horizons*, similar to FFA Stars, accompanied by a definition of partner.
3. Create an FFA partner logo and a partner mission statement to be used at all levels.
4. Include the partner logo and partner mission statement in the FFA manual.
5. Create an "I am an FFA Partner" lapel pin and market it through Ventures.
6. Create ready-to-present partner awareness workshops for state officers.
7. Enhance the SAE video by highlighting innovative student/partner cooperation.
8. Create a partner appreciation card template on software, possibly with present logo software, to be used in partner recognition through chapter activities.
9. Create radio spots to involve partner(s) recognition in FFA Week materials packets.
10. Create a partner recognition program that may include recognition for years of service and/or outstanding partner of the month.
11. Publicize the partners display to teachers, state staff, etc., for use.
12. Continue to promote on the FFA website to our partners.

## **Respectfully Submitted,**

Mike Tuszyński Jr., MT (Chair)  
Kelli Shea Ross, TN (Vice Chair)  
Vanessa Kretschmar, AL  
Brandon J. Bailey, AR  
Devin Wisinger, AR  
Lesia Eidman, CA  
Katie Howell, CA  
Christopher Pelham, CA  
Jennifer VanTrain, CA  
David Haversat, CT  
Cherie Searles, CT  
Robert Proud, DE  
April Harris, FL  
Richard Boatwright, GA  
Amy Day, GA  
Tim McDermott, IL  
Mike Taylor, IA  
Doug Sherwood, IN  
Matt Chaliff, KY  
Max Fontenot, LA  
Nicholas McCrum, ME  
Gary Bassler, MD  
Jennie Nelson, MA

Nick Ladd, MI  
Sissy Greer, MS  
Brian Heuring, MD  
Jeff Miller, MT  
Kim Ray, NM  
Aaron Fleming, NC  
Misty Lambert, NC  
Emily Buxton, OH  
Josh Brecheen, OK  
Cody Murphy, OK  
Kurt Romans, OR  
Ronny Budette, SC  
Kelly Kail, TN  
Jimmy Birkhead, TX  
Geoff Hanes, TX  
Leslie Richardson, TX  
Roby Tucker, TX  
Lauri Vaughn, TX  
Wesley Fertig, VA  
Rebecca Thomson, WA  
David Boice, WV  
Becky Harvey, WI



# FFA Publications



## We recommend that the FFA:

### Advisor Publications

1. Develop centerfolds as lesson plans and activities such as crossword puzzles, word finds, and brain teasers for classroom use.
2. Link lesson plans to articles included in *FFA New Horizons*.
3. Develop new sections in *FFA Advisors Making a Difference* such as computer tips, website listings, and an advisor "Did you forget?" section.
4. Develop a removable chapter officer page. For example, one side could be an officer "to do" list and the other side could be a national officer message.
5. Change font and/or masthead color bi-monthly or quarterly to ensure interest.
6. Maintain consistent article location.

### Handbook and Manual

1. Explain the difference between entrepreneurship and placement in the proficiency section including the monetary awards in both the *Official FFA Manual* and *Student Handbook*.
2. Ensure that pictures in the *Student Handbook* and *Official FFA Manual* support text on the page (i.e. page 11 in *Official FFA Manual*).
3. Print the *Official FFA Manual* in pocket size similar to the size of the national convention program.
4. Ensure that the information published in the *Official FFA Manual* and the *Student Handbook* is consistent and correct.
5. Appoint a taskforce to address the issue of official dress. A member of the *Student Handbook* and *Official FFA Manual* subcommittee should serve on the taskforce.
6. Put the *Official FFA Manual* on the Internet.
7. Give more recognition to the NFA in the *Official FFA Manual* and the *Student Handbook*.

### FFA New Horizons

1. Include a calendar of upcoming national FFA events.
2. Encourage FFA chapters to submit articles on new and/or unique FFA activities or education projects.
3. Include more articles on students, agricultural technology and hot topics in agriculture which relate to FFA members and chapters.
4. Include sections which focus on opportunities such as WLC, MFE, and international programs. This will encourage members to participate in these activities.
5. Provide addresses or Internet links for articles and features so that members can locate additional information on the topic.
6. Include a section on agribusiness careers and highlight sponsors and/or include information about sponsors in the featured area.
7. Include a section on FFA history.
8. Highlight FFA members who have gone on to successful careers.
9. Focus on the three basic components of agricultural education (FFA, SAE, instruction).
10. Highlight a state in each issue with general information about agriculture.
11. Advertise Ventures catalog items.
12. Provide a section on member/chapter exchange opportunities.

13. Develop cover design features that appeal to the broadest number of members.
14. Use higher quality paper for the *FFA New Horizons* inserts.
15. Encourage members to participate in the magazine by having photo contests and letters to the editor.
16. Where members wear official dress, make certain photos show only those in complete official dress.
17. Use language at the appropriate readability level to reach all members.
18. Include articles which appeal to new members and articles which target current members.

### New Ideas

1. Offer a connection through a web service provider who would offer a customized splash page.
2. Implement an "Internet advisor" help icon.
3. Develop an "e-mail connections" allowing FFA publications to be sent via e-mail.
4. Create a special section for officers on the Internet to include the B.L.A.S.T. Off arsenal pages.
5. Establish a live chat room.
6. Feature guests and agricultural issues forums on live chat.
7. Update a weekly "hot spots in agriculture" feature on Internet.
8. Design a new header and graphic features.
9. Offer Internet utilization/homepage creation kit for chapter use.
10. Circulate a "how to build a chapter newsletter" publication.
11. Distribute a publication to all members highlighting national events and deadlines.
12. Develop and distribute a Greenhand guidebook.
13. Create a "What is FFA?" or "This is the FFA" pamphlet.
14. Create an addition to Local Program Success highlighting use of *FFA New Horizons* and other periodicals in the classroom.
15. Advertise state insert opportunities in the *FFA New Horizons*.
16. Create a special section to include the NLCSO materials.

### Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Lukey, MA (Chair)  
 Dan Baldree, WA  
 Parker Bane, IL  
 Travis Belt, MO  
 Lorissa Benson, ND  
 Kevin Bradley, NC  
 Angela Browning, CA  
 Christian Geu, CO  
 Alecia Chris, NJ  
 Sam Cooke, WI  
 Summer Dean, TX  
 Laurie Dennison, IA  
 Kathy Duffield, WV  
 Michael Fitterer, AZ  
 Tammy Gilland, MN  
 Melissa Gomes, CA  
 Ryan Hunt, OK  
 Sue Hoop, OH  
 Olivia Jenkins, TX  
 Blake Kessler, GA  
 Lori Kohlhaugen, IN  
 Matthew London, KY  
 Kevin Mathy, CA

Katie McWilliams, MO  
 Justin Newman, AK  
 Nicki Over, PA  
 Matt Parnell, AL  
 Rachael Porter, UT  
 Kerry Priest, KS  
 Jake Prince, TX  
 Michael Rovella, FL  
 Nathan Russell, WI  
 Eric Schilling, NE  
 Bubba Shipley, TX  
 Gary Small, OH  
 Katrina Smith, CA  
 Bee Jay Squires, TX  
 Brandon Tate, IL  
 Erika Thompson, LA  
 Michael Thompson, CT  
 Jenny Titus, SD  
 Robert Todd, KY  
 Stephanie Turner, OK  
 Sarah Tusing, VA  
 James Waldrop, TN  
 Whitney Wood, AL





# Auditing

## **We recommend:**

1. That the audit be accepted as a clean audit and as presented.
2. That the national dues remain at the current amount which is \$5.

## **Respectfully submitted,**

Alecia Chris, NJ (Chair)  
Chris Cothran, SC  
Kellie Warner, OH  
J.D. Chambers, NC  
Lesley Towlman, IN

Laban Molsee, ID  
Emily Belton, KS  
Kelli Shea Ross, TN  
Matt Rasmussen, NE



*Careful attention to detail was crucial to the auditing committee's report.*

# Nominating

We, the Nominating Committee, have given careful and deliberate consideration to all applicants running for national office. The committee nominates the following slate of candidates to the delegates at the 70th National FFA Convention to serve as national officers for the year 1997-98.

National Treasurer: K. Eugene Eulinger, Mo.

National Executive Secretary: C. Coleman Harris,  
Washington, D.C.

National Advisor: Larry D. Case, Washington, D.C.

Vice President Central Region: Mark Wilburn, Laddonia, Mo.

Vice President Eastern Region: Dana Fisher, Mauretown, Va.

Vice President Southern Region: Amber Miller, Louisville, Ala.

Vice President Western Region: Cody Nash, Tolar, Texas

National Secretary: Shannon Wilcox, Kenton, Ohio

National President: Hillary Smith, Perry, Ga.

## **Respectfully submitted,**

Chance Kornegay, OK (Chair)  
Gabriel Heatherly, AK  
Summer Hackett, CA  
Casey Ferguson, FL  
Lisa Ahrens, IA  
Elizabeth Quesnell, ID  
Erin Fountain, RI  
Jonathon Minor, SD  
Trey Keyser, VA



# National FFA Convention



## We recommend:

### Agricultural Careers and Fields

1. Stress more industry involvement at the National Agricultural Career Show, including exhibits involving precision farming, floriculture, aquaculture and horticulture.
2. Have the FFA hold a livestock show or rodeo, open to FFA members and hold a concert at Louisville.
3. Work with the area businesses to arrange career shadowing activities during the convention.
4. Allow FFA members to explore Career Development Events at the convention after they are held.
5. Extend career show hours through Saturday

### Pride in the FFA and Role Modeling

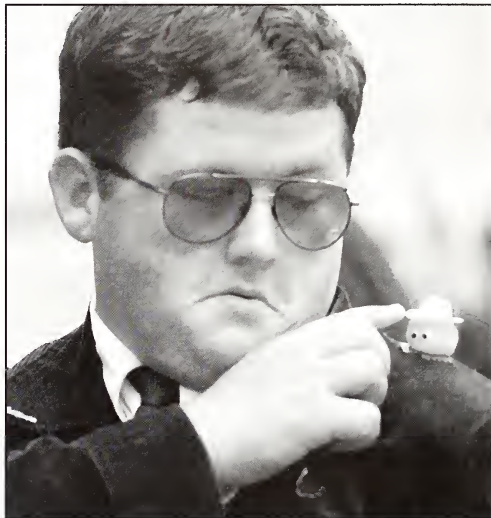
1. Clarification of the Code of Ethics in the Official FFA Manual to serve as a more effective guideline regarding official dress.
2. Create a definition of the FFA for publication to enhance members knowledge of the organization.
3. Develop workshops focusing on creating role models and pride in the FFA.
4. Create a Code of Ethics that recommends proper appearance and actions for FFA members and advisors at FFA activities, especially national convention.

### Marketing and Promotion

1. Increase correspondence between FFA members and sponsors by inviting them to the national FFA convention and showing gratitude by providing the FFA members with thank you notes to send to the sponsors.
2. Send mass invitations to major media inviting them to attend a "Media Day" focused on the national FFA convention.
3. Have the FFA air a commercial on national prime-time television and in a national magazine including a week-long special on "Channel 1."
4. Create a list of successful or famous FFA alumni.
5. Make available lists of the existing discount rates to FFA members traveling to national convention, creative fundraisers and more detailed maps of the national convention.

### Member of the Future

1. To enlarge the number of food outlets and add ways to better organize the flow of students through the food court.
2. Provide an informational packet to high school chapter presidents, advisors, faculty and administrators informing them of the convention activities and the benefits from attending.
3. Create a survey to put in FFA New Horizons to evaluate the national convention.
4. Start a scholarship program for FFA members to attend the national convention.
5. Create a video contest between states that includes personal examples of students in action experiencing national convention to be used promotionally for advisors, sponsors and members.
6. Post signs on each delegate chair stating state and delegate name on each chair to inform the national courtesy corps of delegate seating



*National FFA convention offers many leadership and personal development opportunities for those who attend. Some FFA members, like Mark Smith, even meet new friends and establish relationships that last a lifetime (or as long as the "sticky" holds out).*

### Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Leheska, SD (Chair)  
Matt Rasmussen, NE (Vice Chair)  
Wendie Wallis, AR  
Tracy Fleming, SD  
Shelly Fontenot, LA  
Jay Harris, IL  
Jim Knight, MT  
Marisel San Miguel, PR  
Jason Oman, OH  
Greg Van Dyke, CA  
John Wayne Roberts, MN  
Eric Eugene Roller, MO  
Elizabeth Altstaetter, OH  
Steven Bowman, VA  
Brad Brammell, KY  
Jessie Farmer, TX  
Tony D. Hancock, MO  
Kellie Krebs, TX  
James Nadig, WA  
Luke Parnell, CA  
Kristine Reid, OR  
Dallas Wilkins, AZ  
Jeff Wilson, GA  
Heath A. Curtiss, OR

Amanda Coleman, MS  
Jennifer Best, TX  
Corey Brink, IA  
Adam Coker, MS  
Amanda Hazan, CA  
Sterlina Henson, NC  
Scott Johnson, IA  
Dustin Kittle, AL  
David Mosburg, OK  
Jennifer Thompson, TX  
Chris Vitelli, FL  
Tessa Tibbitts, VT  
Monique J. Marlin, VI  
Jeremy Brashears, OK  
Frances Echeverria, CA  
Ryan Ellerbe, FL  
Mary Handrich, WI  
Jarrod Jordan, TN  
Gunter Krepes, IN  
Kandi Kuchar, MI  
Shyanne Peterson, NM  
Ike Revia, TX  
Darron M. Brichmeier, MI  
Ashley Renee LeBouef, LA





# Breaking New Ground

The FFA is building a new future as it moves into the next millennium. Proficiency awards and career development events have been updated to challenge members to find the best uses for new technology. The presence of the Internet is stronger than ever, thanks to the FFA homepage and the growing legions of 'Net surfers who link up to the opportunities in agriculture.

FFA continues to strive to develop members with a diversity of character and experience, but who still embody the organization's guiding principles of "premier leadership, personal growth and career success." Whether examining potential careers, exchanging ideas with others from across the country, or paying close attention to the words of speakers, convention-goers were challenged to think about themselves, their peers and their FFA experiences in a whole new way.

While continuing to grow and evolve on the inside, the FFA's outward appearance is also changing to reflect the needs of members in the years to come. The move from the organization's home in Alexandria, Va., to its new headquarters in Indianapolis, Ind., will be complete before the Municipal Auditorium opens its doors to FFA members next year one last time. The new center will serve as the foundation for FFA's march into coming years, and the membership has the task of constructing the route to prosperity. If the 70th National Convention is any indicator, the members of FFA are up to the challenge of building the future.



*Hillary Smith dashes to the stage to meet her fellow officers and accept her role as FFA's leader for 1997-98 after hearing her name called as new national president.*



*National FFA Officers spent a year in the spotlight, meeting with members across the country.*



*FFA members possess many talents, not all of them agricultural. Performers in the talent revue captivated audiences with their diverse acts.*



# 1997-98 National FFA Officer Team



**Hillary Smith**

**President**

**Perry, Ga.**

**Age:** 20

**Chapter:** Perry FFA Chapter

**Enterprise:** swine and fern production, placement in cotton production

**FFA State Office:** Georgia Association Vice President

**FFA Awards:** national prepared public speaking winner, national winning nursery/landscape CDE

**College/Major:** University of Georgia, junior, agricultural economics

**Career Goal:** agricultural sales or law



**Shannon Wilcox**

**Secretary**

**Kenton, Ohio**

**Age:** 20

**Chapter:** Upper Scioto Valley FFA Chapter

**Enterprise:** diversified crop and beef production

**FFA State Office:** Ohio Association Reporter

**FFA Awards:** state extemporaneous public speaking, district oil crop production proficiency

**College/Major:** The Ohio State University, junior, agricultural education

**Career Goal:** agricultural education instructor



**Mark Wilburn**

**Central Region Vice President**

**Ladsonia, Mo.**

**Age:** 20

**Chapter:** Van-Far FFA Chapter

**Enterprise:** beef and swine production

**FFA State Office:** Missouri Association First Vice President

**FFA Awards:** state FFA knowledge contest, area star farmer finalist

**College/Major:** University of Missouri-Columbia, junior, agricultural economics

**Career Goal:** marketing for an agribusiness firm



**Dana Fisher**

**Eastern Region Vice President**

**Mauertown, Va.**

**Age:** 20

**Chapter:** Central FFA Chapter

**Enterprise:** agribusiness, vegetable production, market steer production and forestry and wildlife management

**FFA State Office:** Virginia Association Area Vice President

**FFA Awards:** state agricultural sales CDE  
**College/Major:** Virginia Tech, sophomore, agricultural education

**Career Goal:** agricultural education instructor



**Amber Miller**

**Southern Region Vice President**

**Louisville, Ala.**

**Age:** 19

**Chapter:** Louisville High FFA Chapter

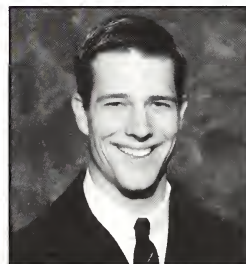
**Enterprise:** swine production and agricultural construction

**FFA State Office:** Alabama Association President

**FFA Awards:** state winner in the prepared public speaking contest, various judging events

**College/Major:** Auburn University, sophomore, agricultural education

**Career Goal:** agricultural instructor, or agricultural public relations



**Cody Nash**

**Western Region Vice President**

**Inez, Texas**

**Age:** 19

**Chapter:** Inez FFA Chapter

**Enterprise:** diversified livestock enterprise

**FFA State Office:** Texas Association First Vice President

**FFA Awards:** horse evaluation team

**College/Major:** Tarleton State University, freshman, agricultural services and development





#### ***The FFA Mission***

FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

#### ***The Agricultural Education Mission***

The mission of Agricultural Education is to prepare and support individuals for careers, build awareness and develop leadership for the food, fiber and natural resource systems.

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